

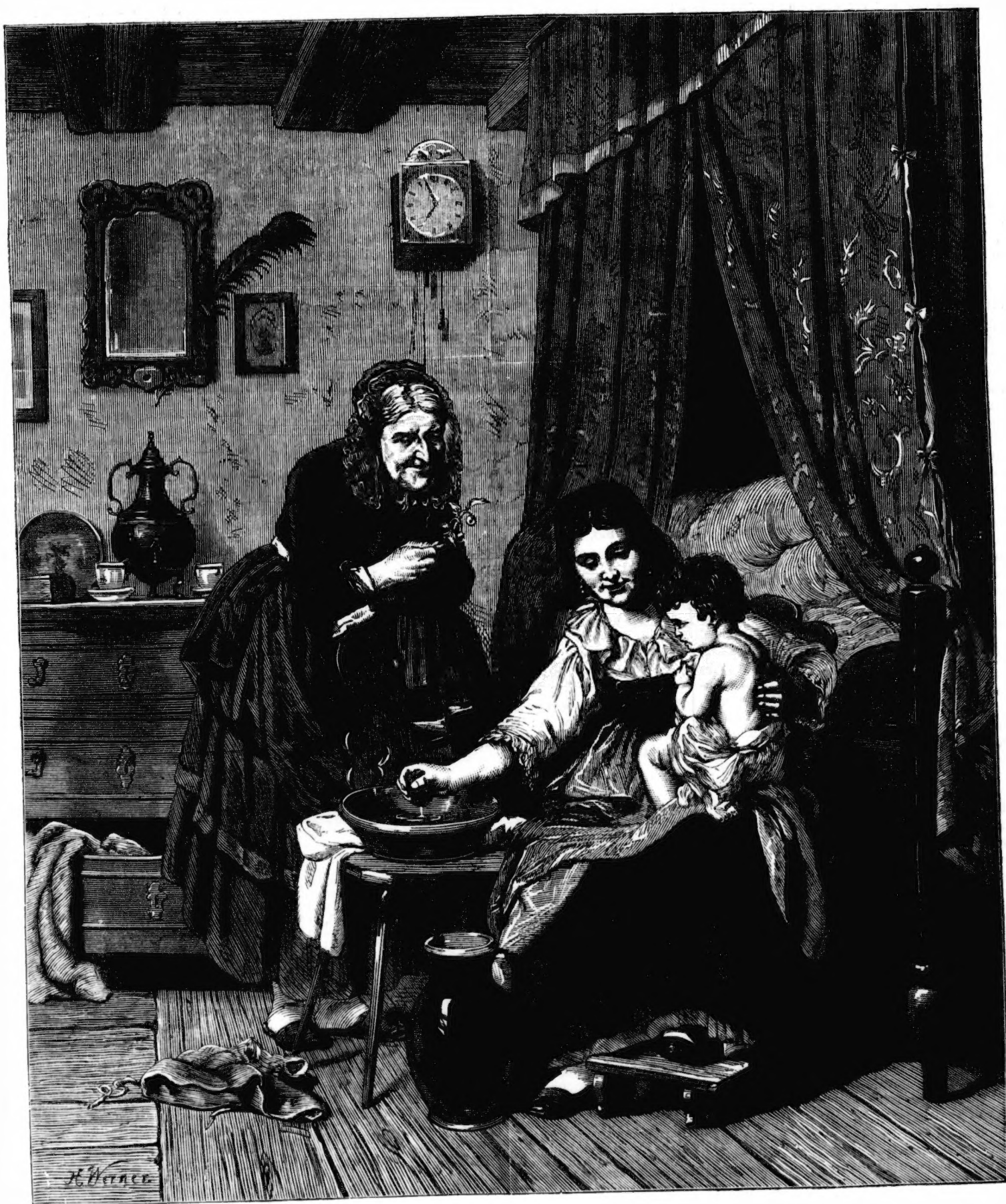
# ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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"THE BRIDE."—(FROM A PICTURE BY H. WERNER.)





## THE LATEST "IDÉES NAPOLEONIENNES."

"CODLING" is the friend; not Short." "There is but one saviour for France; and his name is Louis Napoleon Bonaparte. Government of Defence, National Assembly, Orleans Princes, Legitimacy, Republic—all are naught. I alone am entitled to rule France, and I alone am able to guide her out of the difficulties in which she is now entangled. Betrayed by fortune, and a prisoner, still I am the elect of the people—an election four times ratified. Therefore I, and I only, am the man for France." That, in effect, is what the last utterances of the ex-Emperor—the latest "Idées Napoléoniennes"—amount to; and, in the circumstances, a more perfect specimen of cool audacity never was penned. Betrayed by fortune! True; but after having earned that fate by a double betrayal of France—first of her liberty, then of her safety. What but the Emperor and his system crushed out the intellect, destroyed the public spirit, and sapped the national virtue of France? Who cheated the French people into believing that they had the finest, the bravest, the best-disciplined, and the most perfectly equipped army in the world, but the Emperor and his satellites? Who stimulated their love of conquest and fostered their jealousy of other nations' power? Who induced them to engage in a war for which they were not prepared, and then led their armies to defeat? Again we say, the Emperor Napoleon and his satellites. And yet this man has the hardihood to talk to that same French people of the "injustice" by which he is bruised and the "bitter deceptions" he has endured! Bruised he may be; but not by injustice, for the full measure of retribution he has merited has not even yet overtaken him. Deceived he may have been; but he himself prepared the way for deception by first being a deceiver, and then made broad and smooth the path by surrounding himself with creatures whose only means of winning name, and fame, and fortune, and position, was deceit. Like master, like man. And for the sins of both, and her own great sin in having endured either, France suffers to-day.

If the manifesto published in another column be genuine—and we believe it is, though it may by-and-by be found convenient to disown it—and if the Emperor be sincere in the utterances therein contained, he has in that very document proved his incapacity to thoroughly appreciate late events in France, and, consequently, his incompetence to repair the disasters she has endured, as well as his unworthiness to rule at all. Says he:—"Setting aside for a time my presentiments, I exclaimed, 'What matter the dynasty if the country can be saved?' and, instead of protesting against the violence done against right, I desired the success of the National Defence, and I have admired the patriotic devotion shown by the children of all classes and of all parties." So, then, he approved the National Defence and the conduct of the men who conducted it. That sounds magnanimous and patriotic; and yet in the very next paragraph the Emperor calls for retribution on those very men. "It is time," he says, "to ask for an account from those who have usurped power, of the blood shed without necessity, the ruin heaped up without reason, the resources of the country squandered without control." The one sentence contradicts the other; and this contradiction shows that his ex-Majesty is either as effete in mind as in body, or that his habitual cunning doth overreach itself, and that the Emperor Napoleon III. is still—the Emperor Napoleon III.: a compound of ambition, meanness, and self-deceiving finesse. He does not come forward to claim "rights four times freely confirmed." Perhaps even he feels that to make such claims would be in vain in face of the humiliation and ruin he and his creatures have brought upon France; perhaps even he and they are conscious that their voices could not be listened to after Worth, Forbach, Metz, and Sedan; and so he makes a virtue of necessity, and waives so-called "rights" which he knows are little likely to be admitted. But the cloven hoof reappears in the closing sentence of the manifesto:—"There is but one Government, which has issued from the national sovereignty, and which, rising above the egotism of parties, has the strength to heal your wounds, to reopen your hearts to hope and your profaned churches to your prayers, and to bring back industry, concord, and peace to the bosom of the country." That Government, of course, is the Empire—and the governor, Louis Napoleon: the very Government and governor that wrought France's ruin. Truly, in one thing the Third Napoleon differs widely from the elder Bourbons: whatever may be his talent for learning, he evidently possesses marvellous capacity for forgetting—his own misdeeds. May France and the world be permitted to do likewise, by being saved the infliction of listening to any further Napoleonic ideas!

## THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

THE war alarmists have got their wish. The Army Estimates exceed, by about three million pounds sterling, those of last year. That, at all events, must be satisfactory to the professional advocates of large expenditure. Whether or not the country is likely to get value for the money is another question. At the time we write Mr. Cardwell's scheme of Army reorganisation is unexplained; so we can pronounce no opinion on its merits. But we fear that the right hon. gentleman is not strong enough for the job he has in hand; that the influence of "vested interests" will overpower him; and that, however good may be his will to root out the abuses of our military system, he will be compelled to fall back upon the effete notion that "men and money" constitute efficiency. We sincerely hope we may be mistaken; but the signs of the times are ominous.

There is no possibility of securing a really efficient army so long as the purchase system obtains; and everywhere

the "interests" are in arms in its defence. Some, like Sir James Scarlett, confess that it is wrong in principle; that it ought never to have been tolerated; and that, were the ground clear, they would not adopt it now; but plead—as so many defenders of abuses have pled before—that, "on the whole, the system works well in practice." As if anything that is rotten in principle could ever be wholesome in practice. But it is really amazing to hear men of sense, like Sir James Scarlett, talking in this vague way of an institution "working well," when by universal confession it has most palpably and egregiously failed. We have not an army, our forces being, in the aggregate, a mere mob of regiments—well drilled, it may be, but an unorganised mob nevertheless; we have not an army because we have no officers capable of organising one; and we have not capable officers because capacity is not a necessary condition of promotion. This is the pass to which the purchase system has reduced us, and that, too, notwithstanding the most profuse expenditure. Under the existing system, an average annual expenditure on the Army, in time of peace, of about fourteen millions sterling, does not enable us to put 50,000 effective men in the field, and does not give us a single General capable of commanding them when there; whereas Prussia, for less than half the sum we spend, can maintain, on a peace establishment, 300,000 men, thoroughly organised, equipped, and ready to take the field at a few days' notice. Do not these facts, which should never be forgotten, conclusively prove not only that the purchase system has not worked well, but that it has worked very badly indeed? Why, we have no doubt that General von Roon, the Prussian Minister of War, would undertake, for the three additional millions we are to expend on the Army this year, to provide us with at least 100,000 thoroughly effective soldiers. But, then, they manage these things differently in Germany.

Other defenders of the purchase system, by all sorts of exaggerations, try to frighten the country with the sum of money that would be needed to abolish purchase, the estimate ranging at any figure between £5,000,000 and £10,000,000, according to the fancy of the estimator. For our part, we do not believe that, were the business gone about in a proper way, it would cost anything like even the lower amount; and of this we are certain, that the longer the reform is delayed the more costly will it become. A few years ago the highest value put upon the then existing commissions, including in the calculation extra as well as regulation price, did not exceed £3,000,000; so that, if procrastination is still to be the rule, there is no telling what may be the ultimate cost of doing what must be done some time or other. Consequently, the sooner the job is set about the cheaper must it be. Others again predict complete stagnation in promotion if purchase be done away with, and utter depressing jeremiads on the hopeless prospect that opens for officers. But this may be met by a judicious system of enforced retirement, as in the Navy; and, moreover, we are not aware that the absence of purchase in the Continental armies—in not one of which does it obtain—has been attended with such direful results. The British Army boasts more "old fogies" in its higher ranks than any other, the beneficial influence of purchase notwithstanding; and if we were only as well provided with an efficient Army, relatively to its cost, as most of our neighbours, we daresay the nation would be tolerably well content. But, even at the worst, the interests of the public are paramount over those of officers; and should an array of "old fogies" block the way, means may surely be devised of getting rid of them, and that, too, upon terms that will ruin neither them nor the nation.

At all events, this much is certain—that the purchase system has not given us good officers; and consequently, as purchase and efficiency are evidently, in practice as in theory, incompatible, to secure the one we must get rid of the other. Whether Mr. Cardwell will have the courage to make the attempt will be known by the time these lines meet the eyes of our readers; but, as we have grave doubts as to the success of the proposal, even if it be made, our present protest is not out of place.

## "THE BRIBE."

THERE are certain accessories to civilisation towards which most people display either an unreasoning antipathy or a strong and even an exaggerated predilection. An intermediate relation seems to be almost impossible. Like a taste for olives or a longing for medlars, the appetite must be complete. Mere relish is altogether out of the question, and surfeit is beyond experience. The same conditions seem to affect a large number of people with regard to bathing. Society is divided into bathers and non-bathers, and with the former frequent immersion and suffusion in hot, cold, or tepid water becomes a kind of passion; while the latter, though they may conform to the requirements of health or of comfort to the extent of extensive washing, never can regard absolute sousing, especially in cold water, without a certain cringing, cringing sensation of the skin and a shudder down the back. One can't wonder at it when the conduct of the bathers is considered, for it seems to be a prime article of their faith that not to be daily floundering about in a tub is a sign of effeminacy, and they are never satisfied unless they can refer in a patronising, robust manner to those mysteries of their toilet which are associated with rough towels and flesh-brushes, a "healthy glow," red knuckles, a pouting expression of face, and considerable disorder of the hair. Their conduct is irritating to more composed constitutions, and their conversation, tending bath-wards, and assuming all the cardinal virtues to reside, like Diogenes, in a tub, is generally depressing to the ordinary circulation. The wonderful part of the matter is that these people have only painfully acquired their amphibious virtue. As children they were as averse to the matutinal basin and soapy flannel as their compatriots, and required as much coaxing into warm water as though they really belonged to ordinary humanity, and dated their shuddering antipathies from the time of the flood. It is this infantine experience which has been so admirably and suggestively expressed by the artist from whose picture our present illustration is taken—a picture which tells its own story, and has already attracted admiration no less for the subtle suggestiveness of its treatment than for the delicacy and finish with which it is executed.

## Foreign Intelligence.

## FRANCE.

The first meeting of the National Assembly was held at Bordeaux on Sunday. Between 250 and 300 members were present. Though there were many others who had yet to arrive, it was proposed to constitute the Assembly at once. This was opposed by M. Arago; but, upon being put to the vote, was carried unanimously. The secretaries and other officials were then elected, and the sitting was adjourned. At the second sitting of the Assembly, which took place on Monday, M. Jules Favre, in the name of his colleagues, resigned their powers as the Government of National Defence. They will, however, remain at their posts until the establishment of a new Government. M. Favre afterwards asked permission to return to his difficult and delicate duties, and said that, in conformity with an eventuality already foreseen by the Convention, a prolongation of the armistice would probably become necessary. He urged that this should be as short as possible, out of consideration for the sufferings in the invaded districts. The Assembly met again on Tuesday. There were 450 deputies present. The Assembly ratified the elections of several departments, but reserved the election of the Prince de Joinville for the Manche, as well as that of several Prefects. It is expected that M. Jules Grévy will be elected President of the Assembly, and that M. Thiers will be the new President of the Council.

At Bordeaux it is calculated by persons said to be well informed that the approximate numbers of the different parties in the Assembly will be—Republicans, 150; Legitimists, 50; Orleanists, 400; Bonapartists, 20; doubtful, 30. The proportion of voters who took part in the elections in Alsace and Lorraine was very large, considering the circumstances of these provinces. At Strasbourg about five sevenths of those enrolled voted. Owing to several candidates being returned by more than one constituency, thirty or forty re-elections will be necessary. M. Thiers has been elected in eighteen departments, General Trochu in seven, General Changarnier in four. M. Gambetta and M. Jules Favre have also been returned more than once.

The following is the official result of the voting in Paris for the election of deputies to the National Assembly:—Louis Blanc, about 216,000; Victor Hugo, about 214,000; Garibaldi, about 200,000; Edgar Quinet, about 199,000; Gambetta, about 191,000; Henri Rochefort, about 163,000; Admiral Saisset, about 154,000; Delescluze, about 153,000; Joigneaux, about 153,000; Scholcher, about 149,000; Felix Pyat, about 141,000; Henri Martin, about 139,000; Admiral Pothuan, about 138,000; Edouard Lockroy, about 134,000; Gambon, about 129,000; Dorian, about 128,000; Ranc, about 126,000; Malon, about 117,000; Henri Brisson, about 115,000; Thiers, about 102,000; Sauvage, about 102,000; Martin Bernard, about 102,000; Marc Dufraisse, about 101,000; Greppo, about 101,000; Langlois, about 95,000; General Frebault, about 95,000; Clemenceau, about 95,000; Vacherot, about 94,000; Jean Brunet, about 93,000; Floquet, about 93,000; Courmet, about 91,000; Tolain, about 89,000; Littré, about 87,000; Jules Favre, about 81,000; Arnaud, about 79,000; Ledru-Rollin, about 76,000; Leon Say, about 75,000; Tirard, about 75,000; Rayona, about 74,000; Ed. Adam, about 73,000; Millière, about 73,000; Peyrat, about 72,000; Larcy, about 69,000.

A telegram from Brussels announces that Prince Napoleon has been elected for Corsica.

M. Jules Favre returned to Paris on Tuesday evening. Complete tranquillity prevails. General Thomas has resigned his post as Commandant of the National Guards, and the command has been assumed provisionally by General Vinoy.

Mr. Wodehouse has arrived at the British Embassy in Paris. Garibaldi has sent in his resignation as Commander of the Army of the Vosges, on the ground that his "mission is concluded." The French Government, in accepting his resignation, says that France will not forget that he has fought gloriously in defence of her territory, and for the cause of the Republic. Garibaldi has also resigned his post as representative in the French National Assembly to which he has just been elected. Garibaldi left Bordeaux, on Monday evening, for Marseilles, en route for Capri.

Count Bismarck has refused to allow the French soldiers now in Switzerland to return to France, on the ground that the French Government would be unable to guarantee that the men would not at once march against the Germans.

Contributions in money still continue to be demanded in the north of France by the Germans. Great indignation is said to be felt at these exactions.

Serious disturbances are reported to have broken out at Nice. A collision occurred between the troops and the people. A crowd having besieged the Prefecture, shouting "Evviva Italia!" the troops charged them with the bayonet, and several persons were wounded.

The German Etappen Commandant at Mulhouse telegraphs that Belfort has concluded an armistice and wishes to capitulate. According to a report from Brussels General Ducrot has resigned his commission as General.

It is announced that both sealed letters and registered letters can now be sent to Paris.

## BELGIUM.

The King has directed that the cost of the convoy of provisions taken to Paris by the Burgomaster of Brussels for the relief of the Belgians resident in the French capital shall be borne by the civil list.

## ITALY.

The library and galleries in the Vatican have been declared to be national property by the Italian Parliament, notwithstanding Ministerial efforts to secure a different result.

A special despatch from Florence says news has reached that capital that a Catholic committee has been formed in Belgium with the view of preparing an armed expedition against Italy. Connections and branches of the society are said to be established in Austria, in Spain, and in some of the French provinces. The seat of operations will be in an island of the Mediterranean. It is believed that the Italian Government is aware of these proceedings.

## GERMANY.

A telegram from Berlin, dated Wednesday, says that the terms of peace in the definitive form given them by the German Government will be comparatively moderate. They will be probably accompanied by a declaration that in case hostilities are resumed heavier terms will be exacted.

The semi-official *Provincial Correspondent* of Wednesday publishes an article on the National Assembly, and says that as soon as there is a decided probability of an understanding being arrived at in reference to peace the armistice will be prolonged, in order that definite peace negotiations may be commenced. It is to be expected that then the National Assembly will be transferred to Paris. On the other hand, should these expectations not be realised, the war will recommence at the termination of the armistice with all energy, for which every preparation has already been made, but it trusts that the eventuality will not occur, and that the troops, crowned with laurels, will shortly return home.

## AUSTRIA.

Prince Mensdorff Dietrichstein, formerly Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and latterly Governor of Bohemia, died on Tuesday night. The deceased Prince was a relative of the Queen of England.

## ROUMANIA.

The political excitement which has been manifested of late in the Principalities has considerably decreased. There is every probability that all difficulties will be quietly settled, and the idea of a change of dynasty has entirely disappeared.

The statement that a Turkish army of observation is being formed at Shumla on account of the unsettled state of affairs in Roumania is incorrect.



## TURKEY AND GREECE.

Aali Pacha, the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, has issued a circular complaining of occurrences arising out of the pursuit of brigands on the Greco-Turkish frontier. Aali Pacha's assertions are spoken of in Athens as inaccurate and calumnious, and it is said that M. Christopulo, the Greek Foreign Minister, is drawing up a detailed reply, pointing out the facts of the case, and declaring Turkey to have acted badly in the matter.

## PROCLAMATION OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.

THE Emperor Napoleon has issued the following Proclamation to the French people, dated the 8th:—

"Betrayed by fortune, I have preserved since my captivity that profound silence which is misfortune's mourning. So long as the armies of France and Germany confronted one another I abstained from all steps or words which might have divided the public mind. I can no longer be silent in face of the disasters of my country without appearing to be insensible to its sufferings. When I was compelled to surrender myself a prisoner I could not treat for peace; my decisions would have seemed dictated by personal considerations; I left to the Government of the Regent the duty of deciding whether the interests of the nation required a continuance of the struggle. Notwithstanding unheard of reverses, France was not subdued. Our strongholds still held out, few departments were invaded, Paris was in a state of defence, and the area of our misfortunes might have been limited.

"But, while attention was fixed upon the enemy, an insurrection broke out in Paris. The seat of the National Representatives was violated, the safety of the Empress was threatened, a Government installed itself by surprise in the Hôtel de Ville, and the Empire, which the whole nation had just acclaimed for the third time, was overthrown, abandoned by those who should have been its defenders. Setting aside for a time my presentiments, I exclaimed, 'What matter the dynasty if the country can be saved?' and, instead of protesting against the violence done against right, I desired the success of the National Defence, and I have admired the patriotic devotion shown by the offspring of all classes and of all parties.

"Now that the struggle is suspended—that the capital, notwithstanding an heroic resistance, has succumbed, and that all reasonable chance of victory has disappeared, it is time to ask for an account from those who have usurped power of the blood shed without necessity, the ruin heaped up without reason, the resources of the country squandered without control.

"The destinies of France cannot be abandoned to a Government without a commission, which, while disorganising the administration, has not left standing a single authority emanating from universal suffrage. The nation cannot long obey those who have no right to command. Order, confidence, and solid peace will not be restored till the people have been consulted as to which is the Government most capable of repairing the national disasters.

"In the solemn circumstances in which we are situated, in the face of an invasion, and with Europe attentive, it is important that France should be one in her aims and desires as well as in her decisions. Such is the object towards which the efforts of all good citizens should tend.

"As regards myself, bruised by so much injustice and such bitter deception, I do not come forward to-day to claim rights which four times in twenty years you freely confirmed. In the presence of the calamities which afflict us there is no room for personal ambition; but so long as the people regularly assembled in its comitia shall not have manifested its will it will be my duty to address myself to the nation as its real representative, and to tell it that all that may be done without your direct participation is illegitimate. There is but one Government which has issued from the national sovereignty, and which, rising above the selfishness of parties, has the strength to heal your wounds, to reopen your hearts to hope, and your profaned churches to your prayers, and to bring back industry, concord, and peace to the bosom of the country."

## THE HUNTERIAN ORATION.

THIS discourse, which is now delivered biennially in the theatre of the Royal College of Surgeons in memory of John Hunter, the founder of the anatomical collection bearing his name, was delivered to a large audience on Tuesday afternoon, the anniversary of his birth, by Sir William Fergusson, Surgeon-General to the Queen and president of the college. The large portrait of Hunter, considered the chef-d'œuvre of Sir Joshua Reynolds, had been brought from the Council-Room and suspended in front of the audience. Some interesting diagrams illustrative of Hunter's experiments of transplanting living structure from one body to another, and original drawings of the birthplace of Hunter, afforded great pleasure to the audience.

Sir William Fergusson stated the object of the ceremony. It was to commemorate the birthday of the celebrated anatomist, physiologist, and surgeon, John Hunter, who flourished in London during a great part of the eighteenth century. His museum, which consisted of anatomical and pathological specimens, as also of specimens of natural history, had been collected by his individual exertions at a cost of about £70,000, and was purchased after his death by Government, and presented as a free gift to the Royal College of Surgeons. The care bestowed on the museum during the last seventy years, and the additions made, under the supervision of the council of the college, acting in association with trustees stipulated for by Government, were referred to, and it was announced that the collection as it now stood, including adjuncts in the way of buildings, library, additional specimens, &c., represented the astounding cost of about a quarter of a million sterling. The present ceremony had been instituted some sixty years ago by two relatives, favourite pupils of Mr. Hunter, the celebrated physician Matthew Baillie and the equally celebrated surgeon Sir Everard Home, and had been faithfully observed throughout that period, with a few unavoidable exceptions. The orator considered that an enthusiast might say with truth that the museum is the heart and soul of British surgery. He took a sharp and quick glance at a variety of modern theories in physiology and pathology, and questioned the superiority of some of these over those of Hunter, in particular the wisdom of conclusions drawn on brief consideration over those emanating from a brain (Hunter's) wherein thought had, for more than forty years, assumed a favourite place. He then playfully referred to the suggestion of a distinguished philosopher, whose views appeared in the columns of the *Times* last autumn, that when the microscope did not seem to give satisfaction in minute research, imagination might be substituted. He pointed out that this style of philosophy was not new, for it had been put into Hamlet's mouth by Shakespeare:—

Imperial Caesar, dead and turned to clay,  
Might stop a hole to keep the wind away.

Sir William claimed on behalf of Hunter that he probably anticipated by a hundred years the science of the system of grafting or transplanting, a practice which is much in fashion among surgeons of the present day. Some interesting preparations from the Hunterian collection were here exhibited, showing a human tooth and spurs of cocks grafted and growing on the cockcomb, some of the spurs having grown many inches in length in their new and seemingly more genial soil. The effect of the grafting process of skin on the human subject was also displayed on a picture of the leg of an old woman above sixty, with numerous patches of skin taken from the "brawny" part of a boy's arm, each flourishing in vigorous life, and ten or twenty times its original size when transplanted. Some brief, pleasing, and kind-hearted biographical notices were then given of recently deceased members of the profession, all of whom had been personally known to the orator. These were James Wardrop, Sir William Lawrence, Joseph Hodgson, Sir James Young Simpson, and James Syme, who were all specially claimed as disciples of Hunter. Finally, the orator again reverted to Hunter and his works, and asked the audience

to look at the results. "He, in the course of years, and at the age of sixty-five, accumulated a treasury of facts in his museum and writings which, from the time of his death up to the present day, may be said to have been the fountain-head of modern science in our profession. The streams thence have flowed in largely varied directions, and no man yet can span the course they may take." After some further eulogy of Hunter, the orator concluded thus:—"He was born, the tenth child of his parents, in a modest country house in Scotland; he seems to have led the idle life of a wayward, petted boy, until twenty years of age, when his character changed, and the dawn of his future greatness appeared; he had neither wealth nor influential friends to further his worldly prospects, yet he rose to be the foremost surgeon and physiologist of his day. He read nature more closely than most other men, and thereby came nearer in communion with the Divine Author of all. Parts of the results of his physical labour are treasured within these walls; portions of his mental labour are, in printed form, the property of the world at large; his mortal remains rest beside those of many of England's greatest sons within the hallowed shrine of Westminster Abbey."

## INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH OF "ALLHALLOWS-STAINING."

WE had occasion only a short time ago to present our readers with an illustration of the old Church of St. Mildred, in the Poultry, as suggesting those improvements which elderly citizens may be pardoned for regarding as innovations.

The opening of new streets and widening thoroughfares, long ago insufficient for the enormous traffic that goes on daily east of Temple Bar, has begun to alter the aspect of London in some of those quaint old corners, those intricate congeries of streets and steep lanes leading from Cheapside to the river. The Thames Embankment has necessitated the removal of so many queer-shaped pieces from the civic puzzle-map that we may expect to see portions of that map entirely reconstructed. One of the most curious effects of this operation is the apparently sudden opening out of some old church or older mansion; the exhumation, as it were, of some startling piece of solid stone architecture hitherto lost to the sight of the wayfarer, but now standing forth in almost startling prominence from amidst the ruins of demolished houses. Many of these churches, however, are to share the fate of surrounding buildings. For years their clergy have had each Sunday to officiate to congregations no more numerous than the souls in Noah's Ark; and the pew-owners and benches have seldom had the excitement of welcoming a passing stranger to a seat among the empty pews, beneath the sonorous echoes of the domes where the sounds of responses were lost in space.

St. Mildred's, in the Poultry, will soon be among the churches of the past. The tall, ugly old edifice that once stood at the corner of Fenchurch-street, in Gracechurch-street, has altogether disappeared—its living incorporated, we believe, with Allhallows, Lombard-street, also called "Grass Church;" and now we present our readers with another quaint old interior, coming upon which suddenly in the midst of the busy strife of Mark-lane was often a surprise to good country folk on their first visits to the corn market. Such visitors will know it no more, and even the site of the building will probably soon be lost; but it was a famous church in its time, and is noticed by Stow, who explains its queer name by saying it is "commonly called Stane Church (as may be supposed) for a difference from other churches of that name in this city, which of old time were built of timber, and since were built of stone." This was one of the churches which escaped the Fire, but the whole building except the tower fell down in 1671. Its historical associations, however, are sufficiently interesting to connect its disappearance with certain regrets. It was in the parish of Allhallows that Sir William Wallace, the Scottish patriot, was lodged as a prisoner at the house of William de Leyre; it was at Allhallows Staining that Queen Elizabeth attended service on her release from the Tower in 1554, on that memorable occasion when she afterwards dined off pork and pease at the King's Head Tavern close by, where they still show the metal dish, thereafter preserved from common use; and it was at Allhallows—one of the few London churches where the ceremony was performed—that King James II.'s "Declaration of Indulgence" was read by the Rector, Timothy Hall, "a wretch," as Mr. Macaulay says, made Bishop of Oxford by the King for his zeal and forwardness on this occasion.

## THE BANK OF SCOTLAND BUILDINGS, EDINBURGH.

SOME months have now elapsed since the completion of the handsome new buildings erected for the Bank of Scotland, in Edinburgh, of which we this week publish an Engraving by way of illustrating those "improvements in provincial towns" of which we have already furnished several specimens; but we hope we shall not be guilty of wounding the susceptibilities of our northern brethren by including their capital city among provincial towns. Edinburgh boasts many handsome individual buildings, besides being a handsome city altogether; and among those buildings not the least notable is the Bank of Scotland, situated in Bank-street, on the southern side of the valley which separates the new from the old town. Of this edifice we copy the following description from the *Scotsman*:—

"The building in its original form was an unsightly structure, and, as it occupied one of the most conspicuous sites in the town, its ugliness was thrust upon public notice. It is nearly seventy years since the bank was erected, and possibly among the bald architecture which prevailed in its early days it was considered a masterpiece; but seventy years form a long period in the modern history of the city, and during their course the public taste has made a great advance, so that many things which were once reckoned beautiful and grand have lost their charms by being brought into comparison with more recent creations. The bank building was so large and valuable, and presented so few salient points for improvement, that it was extremely difficult to devise a practicable plan to remove its ugliness without entailing entire reconstruction. A number of years ago several of the leading architects of the city were prompted to exercise their genius in an endeavour to discover a feasible plan of improvement, but none of their suggestions met the approval of the directors. Through the increase of business in the bank, however, it at length became absolutely necessary to provide additional accommodation; and about seven years ago Mr. David Bryce, R.S.A., was commissioned to prepare designs. To the difficult task assigned to him Mr. Bryce brought his great professional skill and matured experience to bear, and the result was the production of a design which met the highest approval of all concerned, and which now, in its realisation, excites general and almost unqualified admiration. Mr. Bryce has been able, while retaining nearly all the old structure, to so alter and add to it, both externally and internally, that it now possesses all the appearance and advantages of a new edifice.

"The chief additions to the building in respect to accommodation, and perhaps also as regards architectural effect, consist of two wings placed on each side of the front looking towards Bank-street. These wings increase the length of the façade from 105 ft. to 175 ft., and come forward to the pavement. The ground floor of the old building has been extended forward so as to fill up to the street line the space that would otherwise exist between the wings, and has the appearance of a stone screen uniting these projections. The style followed is the same as that adopted by the original architect, but the treatment is much more artistic and ornamental. The wings are four stories in height, the windows being flanked by piers and coupled Corinthian pillars, and terminating in ornamented pedimental gables. Behind these gables and prominent objects in the building as viewed from the north, are campaniles forming a group with the central cupola. The campaniles consist of four clusters of shafts united by arches and

covered by stone domes, on the apex of each of which is a single allegorical figure. The unsightly dome, resembling an inverted punchbowl, which surmounted the old building, has been superseded by a cupola of exceedingly graceful design, rising 30 ft. higher than the old one. It is divided into three stages, the lower of which is octagonal in shape, and has its sides decorated with panels, mouldings and cornices. Then comes the dome proper, surmounted by a small ornamental turret, which forms the pedestal for a large figure of Fame. This figure, which is 7 ft. in height, is cast in zinc and gilded. The height of the cupola from the pavement in Bank-street is 112 ft., of the campaniles 90 ft., and of the main body of the building 55 ft. The street floor all round the building has been constructed of what is termed rustic ashlar, every alternate course being vermichiolated and broken up by piers on each side of the windows, and Ionic pillars with vermichiolated bands on each side of the main entrance. Along the top of the one-story part of the building which lies between the wings are a frieze and cornice, surmounted by a stone balustrade, which is broken up at intervals by pedestals, on which it is intended ultimately to place sculptured groups representing Agriculture, Navigation, Commerce, and Mechanics. On the keystones of the six arched windows in the front are carved the heads of the patron saints of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Perth, and also heads representing Agriculture and Commerce. The part of the old structure which shows in the recess between the wings and over the low building in front has been altered and ornamented so as to be in harmony with its surroundings. Many other details go to constitute the remodelled—or, rather, new—façade, which is altogether a work of great beauty, displaying consummate skill and taste in the adaptation.

"The north side of the building, which was its most objectionable feature, has in the central part been reconstructed from the ground level, and is not recognisable as a part of the old structure. The projecting bay, which stood out like a bare backbone on this side, has been converted into two projections, one of which springs from the other. The two floors which lie under the level of Bank-street are lighted from the north side, but the great and very heavy and ugly unaltered screen-wall rising from Market-street shuts them out of view, and they do not come into the composition of the building as seen from Princes-street. The telling-room, which extends along the whole north front outside of the wings, is lighted by two tiers of windows having circular heads, balustrades, and characteristic mouldings. Over the upper windows of the telling-room is a richly-carved double pediment, in the upper division of which is an ornamental window, flanked by boldly-carved caryatides in couples. On the apex of the pediment is a seated figure of Britannia. The top of the building on each side of this pediment is finished with a stone balustrade, the pedestals of which bear sculptured groups, illustrating the arts and sciences. Much of the beautiful detail of the design of this front is lost to the view from Princes-street, which is really the only point from which the building can be seen to advantage; but the general effect from that standpoint is very fine—though perhaps to some tastes architectural terminations to the domes would be more agreeable than the somewhat weak and indistinctly seen sculptured figures.

As already stated, the internal arrangements of the bank have been entirely remodelled. The Bank-street entrance opens into a lofty hall, measuring 42 ft. by 21 ft., on one side of which are a lobby and corridor, and on the other the principal staircase. The telling-room beyond has been much enlarged, and measures 50 ft. by 40 ft., and in height it embraces two stories, as the old telling-room has been opened up and incorporated with the large room above. One object of the alterations has been to get all the business apartments arranged on the street floor, and this the architect has succeeded in doing. At the west end of the low portion of the building in front are the manager's room, with the waiting-rooms, &c., in connection therewith; and at the east end the secretary's apartments, and those of the inspector of branches. On the first floor are the rooms of the directors, committee, law agent, &c.; and on the upper floor there is a commodious dwelling-house for the accountant. All the business apartments are decorated with plaster-work in an elegant style; but in the mean time the coloured decorations are not to be carried out. The telling-room is a noble apartment. The floor is laid with coloured marbles in a diagonal checked pattern. All the furnishings are of the most elegant and substantial kind. Nothing that could promote the comfort and convenience of the public and of the officials has been neglected. There are open fireplaces in all the rooms; but, in addition to these, there is a complete system of pipes for warming the air in all departments.

M. ERCKMANN ON AID FOR FRANCE.—The Bâle Committee of Help to the Wounded have received the following letter from M. Erckmann, who shares with M. Chatrian the authorship of those delightful national romances, "The Conscript," "The Blockade," "Waterloo," &c., and who has been elected for the department of the Haut Rhin in the present Assembly:—"Phalsburg, Jan. 28. Gentlemen.—The unfortunate inhabitants of this town, which has suffered so severely by the war, thank you for your benevolence. It is through dire misfortunes that one learns who are one's real friends. The hearts of Frenchmen will never forget with what generous readiness you have hastened to hold out to us the hand of brotherhood. Accept our thanks in the name of country, religion, and humanity. Other benefactors have lent us their help amid the disasters of the last few months; but when the evil is without limits, when after destruction by fire comes disease, and when amid all our sufferings requisitions of every kind are heaped upon us, then are we compelled to implore those in whom our confidence is placed to continue their good work. Do not, therefore, forget our poor fellow-countrymen, who are worthy of your remembrance on account of their courage, their patriotism, and their gratitude for all your past and present goodness.—Accept, &c., EMILE ERCKMANN."

## THE CATHEDRAL AT ORVIETO.

THE Cathedral, or Duomo, of Orvieto (which, with the rest of the Papal States, has now been incorporated in the kingdom of Italy) is one of the most interesting examples of Italian Gothic, and in many respects is without a rival in the history of art. Like the cathedrals of Siena and Florence, it is built of alternate courses of black and white stone. The façade, with its bright mosaics and marble sculptures, is hardly to be surpassed in richness of material or in beauty of effect. The interior presents a large collection of sculpture of the sixteenth century, and is enriched by those frescoes of Luca Signorelli from which Michael Angelo is supposed to have derived the idea of his great work of "The Last Judgment."

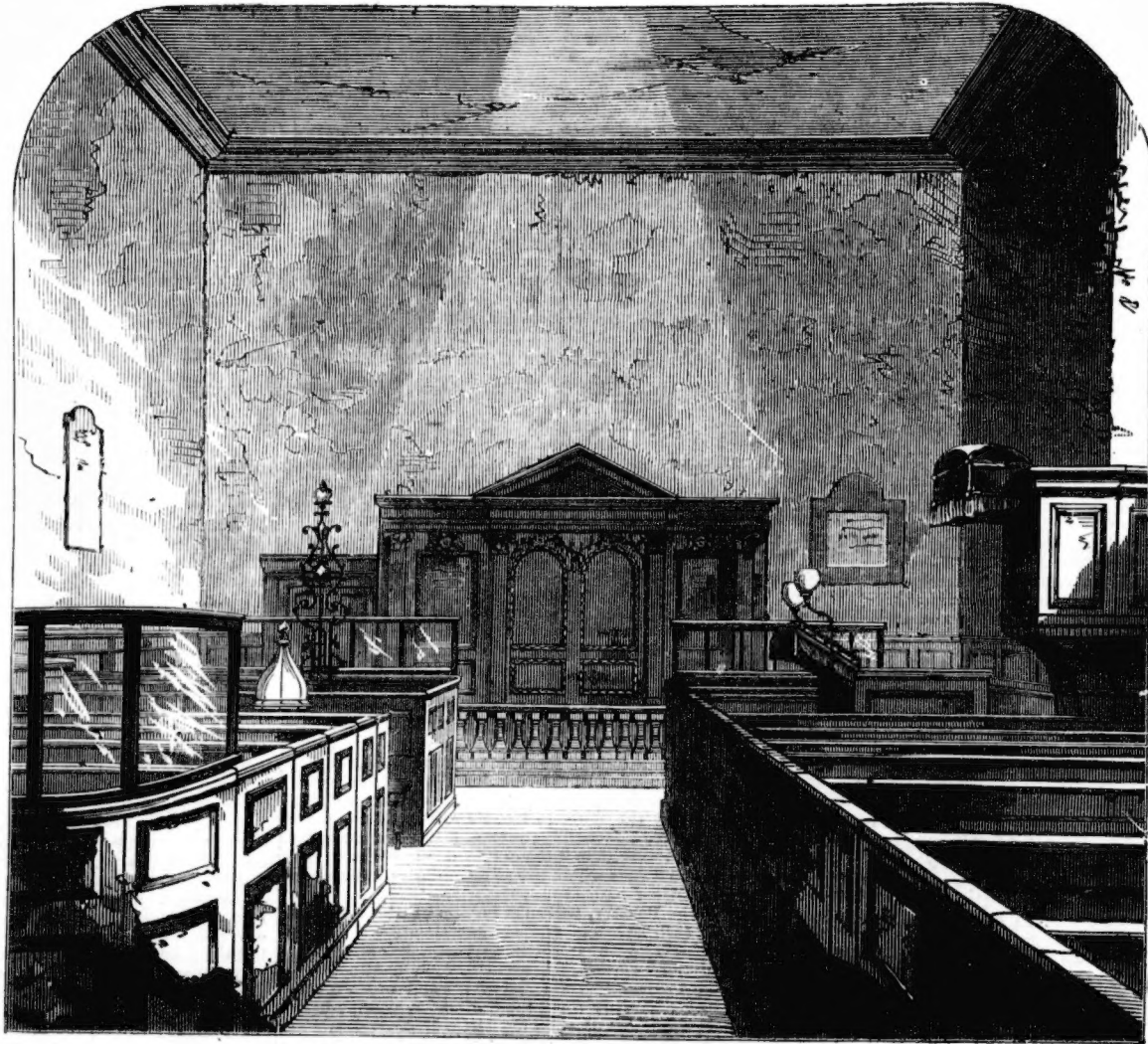
This remarkable building owes its origin to the miracle of Bolsena, which occurred, according to the Church history, in the middle of the thirteenth century. Urban IV. being then resident at Orvieto, the priest who had been convinced by the miracle proceeded there to obtain absolution for his doubts, and brought with him the linen and other relics of the altar upon which the blood had fallen. The Pope, attended by several cardinals, met the relics at the bridge of Rio Chiaro, and resolved that an edifice should at once be erected to receive them. Lorenzo Maitani, the celebrated Siennese architect, gave the design, and the first stone was laid by Nicholas IV., in 1290. From that time to the end of the sixteenth century almost every artist of eminence in architecture, sculpture, and mosaic was employed upon the works; and P. della Valle, in his history of the cathedral, records the names of no less than thirty-three architects, 152 sculptors, sixty-eight painters, ninety workers in mosaic, and twenty-eight workers in tarsia, whose talents were devoted to the embellishment of the edifice. The bases of the four pilasters of the façade are covered with bas-reliefs by Giovanni da Pisa, Arnolfo, and other scholars of Niccolò da Pisa. The sculptures of the first pilaster, on the left hand, are arranged in compartments formed by the branches of a large ivy. The subjects embrace the history of man from the Creation to the settlement of the children of Noah; in the fifth compartment Tubal Cain is represented as making bells, and Seth has a compass in his hand to indicate his reputed skill in astronomy. In the second the arrangement is different: Abraham is the principal figure, and all the others serve as connecting links, illustrating the descent



of the Virgin from the house of David; the thirteen figures around the sleeping patriarch represent the judges who ruled over Israel after the death of Joshua; the pedigree of the Virgin is shown in a series of eight ovals, on which are sculptured the principal personages and events which may be considered as representing the successive periods of the descent. The third pilaster, of which the principal figures are Jacob and the prophets, is entirely illustrative of the history of the Saviour from the Annunciation to the Resurrection. The fourth, in a series of surprising sculptures, represents the Last Judgment, the Place of Punishment, and the Saints in Paradise. There is perhaps no work of the kind, whether we consider the early period of its execution or the minute variety of its details, more deserving of attentive study than this remarkable composition. In the representation of hell the imagination of Giovanni da Pisa seems to have been inexhaustible; the monsters and the modes of punishment are entirely original, and the execution of the whole is characterised by an elaborate and careful workmanship. Above these pilasters are the four bronze emblems of the Evangelists. The spaces over the doors, and below the three pointed gables of the front, are filled with modern mosaics on a gold ground, representing the Annunciation, the Marriage of the Virgin, the Baptism of Christ, the Coronation of the Madonna, &c. The three doorways are also richly sculptured, and present some fine examples of spiral columns covered with mosaic, foliage, and other ornaments.

The interior is built of black basaltic lava and yellowish grey limestone, both found in the vicinity of Orvieto, and in the form of a Latin cross; the length from the choir to the great door is 278 ft. (English); the width, 103 ft.; the height, 115 ft. The windows are all lancet-shaped, and many of those which are not closed up have finely-painted glass in the upper portions and diaphanous alabaster in the lower. The nave is divided from the aisles by six arches on each side, the columns supporting them are 62 ft. high, and have capitals of

different orders of architecture. A gallery, with an elaborately-carved balustrade, runs over the arches and all round the nave. The roof is modern, having been completed in 1828, without ornament; and, from its undecorated appearance, is quite out of keeping with the magnificence of the edifice it covers. The floor is of red Apennine marble, decorated, before the choir, with inlaid fleurs-de-lis.



INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH OF ALLHALLOWS-STAINING, CITY.

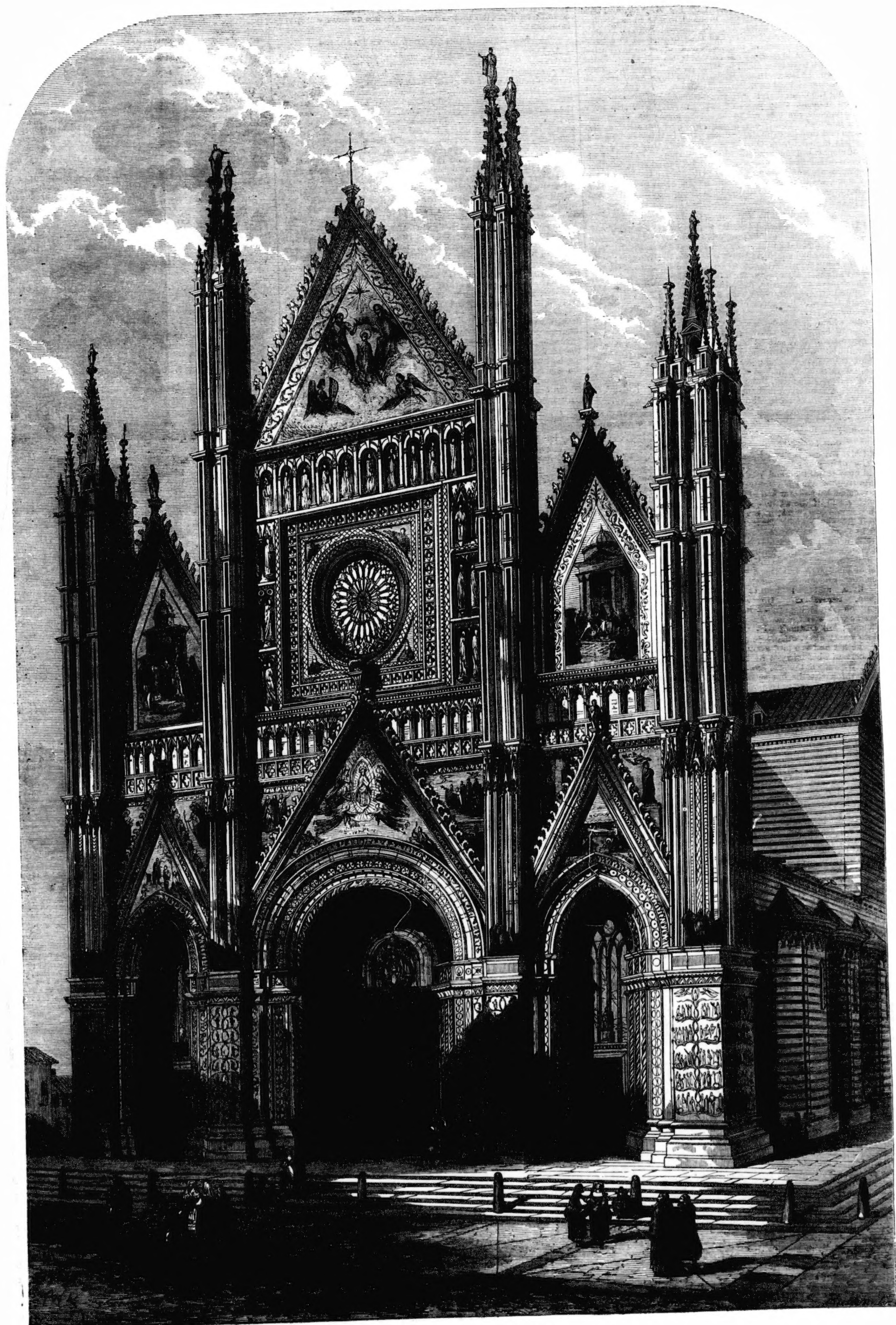
In front of these columns stand the marble statues of the twelve apostles; they are 9½ ft. in height, and are placed on pedestals 5½ ft. above the floor of the nave, so that their colossal proportions produce an imposing effect. On the left side are—St. Peter, by Francesco Mosca; St. Andrew, by Fabiano Toti, finished by Ippolito Scalza; St. John, by Ippolito Scalza; St. Philip, by Francesco Mochi; St. Matthew, by John of Bologna; St. Taddeus, by Francesco Mochi. On the right are—St. Simon and St. James the Less, by Bernardino Cametti; St. Bartholomew, by Ippolito Buzio; St. Thomas, by Scalza, said to be a likeness of himself; St. James, by Giovanni Caccini; and St. Paul, by Francesco Mosca, a bad imitation of the Farnese Hercules. The most remarkable of these figures are the St. Matthew and the St. Thomas; the latter is full of dignity and life.

At the high altar are the celebrated figures of the Annunziata and the Archangel, by Mochi. The Virgin is represented as starting from her seat at the salutation of the archangel; her hand grasps the chair with almost convulsive energy, and her countenance wears a disagreeable expression of indignation, little in accordance with the feelings which inspired the great painters on the same subject. The tarsis of the choir was executed chiefly by artists from Siena in the fourteenth century; that of the pulpit is of later date, and is said to have been designed by Scalza. The two altars in the transepts, representing the Adoration of the Magi and the Visitation, are masterpieces of sculpture. The Visitation is composed of nine figures, in almost whole relief, and nearly as large as life, with an abundance of arabesques and other ornaments; it was designed by San Micheli, of Verona, and executed at the age of fifteen by Moschino, son of Simone Mosca. By the side is a statue of Christ at the pillar, by Gabriele Mercanti. The other altar, of the Adoration of the Magi, is by Mosca himself, and is praised by Vasari as a noble specimen of art. The statue of the Ecce Homo near it is by Scalza.



THE NEW BANK OF SCOTLAND BUILDINGS, EDINBURGH.





THE CATHEDRAL AT ORVIETO, ITALY.



## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 390.

## CHANGES.

On Thursday, the 9th, the third Session of the eighth Parliament of Queen Victoria was opened by her Majesty, and once again we are at our desk with pen in hand to give to our readers our "abstract and brief chronicles" of the said Session, to hold up "our faithful mirror" to it, and thus to present to all who choose to look a reflection of the actors and scenes on the Parliamentary stage. And first, as our custom is, we will chronicle the changes which have been made in "the palace" since the prorogation in August last. In the House proper there have been no changes made, at least no discernible changes. In the corridor connecting the Central Hall with the members' lobby we noticed that the frescoes, after years of exposure to the air, to their obvious damage, are now all protected by plate glass to prevent further mischief. This is our English way: we too often let the horse go and then lock the stable door. But in this case no great harm has been done, for these frescoes, though they cost a vast deal of money, are to our mind but of small value. Indeed, if we had been called to decide, it would have been a question whether the pictures are worth the cost of the plate glass. Consulting our taste alone, we think that we should have decided to let Decay's effacing fingers do their worst, and been disposed rather to hasten than to retard the operation.

## THE LOBBY CLOSED, AND WHY.

In 1869 Mr. Speaker issued an edict that in future the members' lobby should be kept clear of strangers. We will tell our readers why this edict had to be issued, and how it has worked. The members' lobby had till then always been open to strangers; and, no doubt, some strangers ought to be allowed freely to enter the lobby—Parliamentary agents, for example, Government officials, members' private secretaries, &c. In short, all men who may have legitimate business to transact with the House or with individual members thereof. But most of the people who used to come to the lobby had no business to transact there, except, indeed, business which they had no right to transact there—such as the business of begging, of canvassing for votes for or against bills, and generally all that sort of business which the Americans call "log-rolling." Well, these people, these idle loungers, and pestilent touters, canvassers, beggars, &c., had of late years so largely increased in number, that at times a passage through the lobby to the refreshment-room, the library, the vote office, and other places to which members and officers of the House have constantly to go, was a work of no small difficulty. Indeed, representatives of large constituencies could rarely enter the lobby without peril of being seized by the arm, or the tails of their coats, and unwillingly detained.

## OLD LOBBY-FREQUENTERS NOW EXCLUDED.

Old Mr. Briscoe, the late member for West Surrey, had quite a horror of the members' lobby, and when it was crowded never would cross it until he had reconnoitred it to discover whether certain troublesome lobby-touters were lurking in the crowd. An anti-vaccination agitator had of late become the old gentleman's *bête noir*; and if the white choker of this man was visible, Mr. Briscoe would start back, go round to the division-lobby, and get himself let out through the private door behind the Speaker's chair to escape the pertinacious, crazy tormentor. Some years ago Mr. Briscoe was often beset and plagued by a lobby-man even more pertinacious, more troublesome, than the anti-vaccination agitator—or, as we might now call him, the successful promoter of smallpox. But the hon. member got quit of the older tormentor in an unexpected way. This man is—for he still lives, and still haunts the House—bearded, dirty, slipshod, threadbare. He was not, though, always so. When he first appeared in the lobby, nearly twenty years since, he wore the attire and had the air and manners of a gentleman; but gradually a change came over him, and at last he got into a very dirty, dilapidated condition. What his profession is, or whether he has a profession, we know not; neither could we ever ascertain what business he had or professed to have in the lobby. We suspect that he, too, is a man with a craze. Possibly he may think that he has squared the circle or discovered the philosopher's stone. Such people do often appear in the lobby, and great plagues they are. One night, about ten years ago, a gentleman appeared in the lobby with a bundle of documents in his hand, and urgently requested the doorkeeper to send for the Home Secretary immediately. "If you have business with the Home Secretary," the doorkeeper replied, "you must send a letter to him. He won't come out." "But I must see him immediately. The truth is, I have made a most important discovery. I have found out that the Queen is not the legitimate heir to the throne, and it is right that the Home Secretary should know it." "But this man," our readers may say, "was mad." Not a bit of it. He, too, had a craze, like the above-named seedy man and the anti-vaccination agitator, but with this difference—the anti-vaccination man's craze is very mischievous; the other poor man's was quite innocent. But to return to the seedy gentleman. One evening, seeing Mr. Briscoe go towards the tea-room, the seedy man coolly attached himself to the honourable member, and, to his great disgust, sat down by his side. Mr. Briscoe was a very kind, affable gentleman, and bore with patience even this impertinence. But another member present, seeing how the case stood, went out and reported it to the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms, and in a few moments the seedy man found himself confronted by this awful functionary. "What do you here?" shouted the angry official, gently poking seedy man's ribs with the while with the hilt of the official sword. "Oh! I came here with Mr. Briscoe," replied seedy man, putting on an air of offended dignity. "Yes, he did," said Mr. Briscoe; and then, encouraged by the presence of the Deputy Sergeant, added, "but I did not ask him, and don't want him. Indeed, he troubles me much." "Get out with you," said Mr. Deputy, "or I will take you into custody." Whereupon the seedy man arose and scurried away, and never stopped, we were told, until he found himself in Palace-yard.

## HOW THE RULE WORKS.

These are specimens of the sort of people who used to haunt the lobby; and it was to get rid of them and other troublesome folk that this edict had to be issued. "But it kept out men who had real business to transact." Yes; but the rule, almost as soon as it was passed, was relaxed. Parliamentary agents, Government officials, Ambassadors, their secretaries and attachés, come in without hindrance; and as to other people who have business to do—and, indeed, all other visitors who wish to see members—they have only to send their cards in by a policeman, and if the members wanted to be in the House they are promptly got out, and as promptly their friends are sent for. This arrangement worked satisfactorily last Session; but this year it will work better, for the indefatigable Chief Commissioner of Works has had a speaking-tube stretched from the door of the House to the central hall, through which tube strangers, when their members come out of the House, can be instantly summoned to the lobby. This tube is the second noticeable improvement made since last Session; and a very great improvement it is. By-the-way, it was suggested years ago; but, like many other improvements, it had to bide its time—till the right man came to make it.

## THE NEW DINING-ROOMS.

The new dining-rooms have been described at length in the columns of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES. Of these, then, we shall only say that they are a success. They are indeed splendid rooms, capacious, lofty, light, airy, with a pleasant outlook across the river on to St. Thomas's Hospital—one of the handsomest ranges of buildings in London. This improvement, too, must be placed to the credit of the Chief Commissioner of Works and Buildings. For many years the change has been talked about. More than one Committee has "sat upon it." But all the talk was resultless—mere futile talk, ending in empty resolutions and recommendations, to which the Government paid small attention. But last Session Mr. Ayrton took the matter up—got the needful

money—and, lo! when the members returned, there were the rooms completely finished. Not a very courtly man is our Chief Commissioner; rather rough, at times, and plain-spoken to obstructive people who stand in his way; and of artistic people and others, who take their money and do not do their work, very intolerant.

## THE MOVER AND SECONDER OF THE ADDRESS.

And now we will turn to the House and its doings; not, though, to describe "the opening of Parliament," for descriptions of that have appeared in every paper, and have been read by all English people who care to read such descriptions. We will, then, pass by the morning sitting of Thursday and take up the evening. But about this there is not much to be said; for, strange to say, the proceedings of that evening were, contrary to expectation, beyond all precedent dull. It was known beforehand that there would be no amendment to the Address. No serious fighting, therefore, was anticipated; but, as her Majesty's Speech was very long, and bristled with disputable topics, it was thought that there would be a prolonged and interesting, and perhaps somewhat exciting, debate. But the debate was not long (the House was up soon after nine), not exciting, but very tame, and not even interesting. The duty of moving an Address to her Majesty thanking her Majesty for "her most gracious Speech" was intrusted to Major Hamilton, member for South Lanarkshire. The hon. and gallant gentleman was Captain in the Life Guards. He is now Major in the Queen's Own Glasgow Yeomanry, and he appeared in the uniform of that regiment—green and red, with handsome brass helmet or casque, not unlike the well-known Prussian helmet; this, however, he did not wear in the House, but stowed away out of sight, thinking, perhaps, that it would be too suggestive of the victorious Prussians to be pleasant to gentlemen opposite. Mr. Samuel Morley seconded the Address; and he, to the wonder of us all, marched into the House arrayed in a flaming scarlet uniform. Was there ever such a solecism as this? A quiet merchant and peaceful Dissenting deacon, withal, in such warlike guise! And then how ludicrously inharmonious is this martial dress with the broad, pale, amiable, puritanic face of the wearer! Mr. Morley did not bring into the House with him his cocked hat, with its imposing plume of pendent feathers. This, he probably thought, would have been too much for our gravity. "What regiment does Mr. Morley belong to?" do you ask. To none, is the answer. This is the uniform of a Deputy Lieutenant—i.e., a representative of a county Lord Lieutenant. The office of Deputy Lieutenant was once really a military office; but that was military in it long ago died out. Deputy Lieutenants have no duties now, and no privileges, we believe, but that of thus masquerading in military attire. Why Mr. Morley chose this blazing uniform in preference to the new velvet Court dress we cannot imagine. In the Court dress he would have looked well; in the military attire he looked—what shall we say that we may not offend so excellent a man?—well, very incongruous.

## THE SPEECHES.

The speeches of the mover and the seconder need little comment. They were speeches of the ordinary kind. Major Hamilton rarely speaks in the House. He, in short, is one of our silent members. His speech on this occasion was short and judicious—that is to say, if there was not much in it that his friends could applaud, there was certainly nothing that the gentlemen opposite could censure—a short, judicious, incontrovertible speech, as all speeches on such an occasion should be. Mr. Morley is not entirely a silent member, and he can speak easily, even eloquently, and within his own range of subjects can interest the House. But on this occasion it was obvious to all that he was cribbed, cabled, confined, bound in. Nevertheless, with the help of copious notes, he did his work well, and at times evoked applause. But when he spoke hopefully of a system of "general disarmament that we may not be continually exposed to the danger of witnessing or being engaged in conflicts and slaughter, against which civilisation and Christianity revolts," who could look at that warlike attire of the hon. member and not laugh?

## A GRAND OCCASION LOST.

When Disraeli rose, as he did when Mr. Morley sat down, the House was immediately all alert for a moment, and then settled down into deep silence and eager attention. It was a grand occasion, if the Conservative leader could but have risen up to it. There were matters to be talked about of overwhelming importance, and over 300 educated men to listen. Nay, when we come to think of it, all the civilised world was anxious to hear what he had to say. But, alas! the Conservative chief is not the man for such an occasion as this, as those who did not know it before had soon painfully learn. Peel or Cairns, or Palmerston or Russell, though they might have been, as Disraeli is, in opposition, would in such circumstances have risen for the time far above the position of a mere party fighter. But Disraeli did not do this, nor ever on any occasion could he. His one dominant idea is at all times and on all occasions that it is his supreme and sole duty to damage his opponents; and this is what he attempted, and this only, on that Thursday night. And so it came to pass that, instead of a sweeping survey of what had occurred since Parliament last met, lucid comment thereon, and honest criticisms upon our own policy, we had a mere display of rhetorical pugilism: Disraeli, attacking the Government with all his characteristic cunning of fence and perverse and unscrupulous ingenuity, and then Gladstone "doubling up" Disraeli, as he most certainly did, and then the curtain fell. "Shades of the mighty dead who once ruled this assembly," we were ready to exclaim as we left the House, "has our statesmanship fallen to this? Alas for England if it has!"

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord Eversley was appointed Chairman of Committees during the illness of Lord Redesdale; and a bill on the subject of ecclesiastical dilapidations was laid on the table by the Archbishop of York. The LORD CHANCELLOR read a message from her Majesty expressing a hope that Parliament will make such provision for Princess Louise on her approaching marriage with the Marquis of Lorn as may be suitable to the dignity of the Crown; and the House ordered the message to be taken into consideration on Monday.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## FOREIGN POLICY.

On the motion that the report on the Address to the Crown be agreed to, Mr. B. COCHRANE called on the Government to make some explicit declaration of their foreign policy. Mr. GILPIN denounced increased armaments, and maintained that what the country wanted was social reforms. Mr. M'CULLAGH TORRENS argued strongly in favour of England using the whole weight of its influence to procure lenient terms of peace for France. Mr. RYLANDS contended that any interference would be futile unless it was backed by an enormous increase of our forces, which the country would never submit to. No Minister rose to reply, and the debate came to a close.

## PRINCESS LOUISE.

A good deal of interest was then excited by Mr. Gladstone bringing up a message from the Queen on the subject of the marriage of Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorn. As is the etiquette on such occasions, the members uncovered their heads while the message, which was similar in its terms to that sent to the House of Lords, was read. It was ordered to be taken into consideration on Monday.

## UNIVERSITY TESTS.

The University Tests Bill was then introduced in a short speech by Mr. Gladstone, and a number of other bills having been brought in and read the first time, the House adjourned.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

An Address to the Crown, assuring her Majesty that the House will concur in any measure passed by the House of Commons for the making a

provision for Princess Louise on her approaching marriage, was moved by Earl Granville and seconded by the Duke of Richmond. No one opposed the Address; but Lord Oranmore expressed a hope that her Majesty will appear more in public in future.

The Marquis of Salisbury obtained the re-appointment of the Select Committee appointed last Session to inquire into the best mode of providing proper safeguards for the maintenance of religious instruction and worship in the Universities in any measure that may be passed enabling persons not now eligible to hold office therein. He said he thought the Committee might make their report before Easter, which would be in time for the University Tests Bill.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE DOWRY OF PRINCESS LOUISE.

After the questions came the expected motion for the grant of the dowry. Mr. GLADSTONE, who moved it, stated that the sum of £50,000 down and an annuity of £2000 was the same as had been granted on previous instances. He justified the vote on the ground that it was usual under the circumstances, and virtually part of the contract between the Sovereign and the people; and he showed that the allowance to the Sovereign was only nominally out of the taxes, seeing that the revenues from the Crown lands this year were equal to the Civil List.

When Mr. Gladstone had finished, no one else rising, the Chairman put the resolution, and as there was a general response of "Ayes," and no one said "No," he of course declared that the Ayes had it. Mr. P. A. Taylor rose at the moment, but was too late.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## THE NEUTRALISATION OF THE BLACK SEA.

Lord CAIRNS drew attention to, and commented with considerable severity on, the language of Mr. Gladstone, on the opening night of the Session, in reference to the neutrality of the Black Sea, insisting that that language was equivalent to an imputation on Lord Clarendon and Lord Palmerston, that they had carried on the war in the Crimea after the negotiations at Vienna in order to attain a point which they considered of little importance.

The Earl of GRANVILLE replied that the subject had been forced upon Mr. Gladstone by Mr. Disraeli; that, no doubt, Lord Clarendon thought the neutralisation of the Black Sea was of considerable importance at the time; but since then circumstances had changed, and Turkey now possessed one of the most powerful fleets in Europe, whereas at that time it was without one.

The Marquis of SALISBURY contended that it was the duty of Ministers to maintain the unity of the country's foreign policy, and a patriotic Minister would not allow his private feelings to stand in the way of his doing so.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## NEW BILLS.

The principal business was the introduction of new bills, but at the commencement of the sitting Mr. Gladstone announced that on Thursday, in Committee of Supply, after the statement of the Secretary for War, he will move that £30,000 be voted as a dowry for Princess Louise. Lord Eversley stated that compensation will be given by the Prussian Government to the owners of vessels sunk by the Prussians in the Seine, as soon as the different claims can be substantiated. Mr. Bruce, in moving for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to trades unions, stated that one object of the bill was to remove the legal disabilities under which these associations now labour to enter into contracts, but it accepted contracts not to resume work. The bill repealed the Act of George IV. on the subject; but it dealt with certain offences mentioned in that Act in a more definite form. It made registration optional, but it gave certain advantages to those societies which did register themselves. Mr. Thomas Hughes, Mr. Hermon, and Mr. Mandell expressed a qualified approval of the provisions of the bill, and leave was given to bring it in.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The bill to legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister was carried on the second reading by 125 to 84. Among new measures brought in were one to allow the germination of grain in Ireland for the feeding of cattle, one to discontinue the registration of deeds and wills in Middlesex, one for the appointment of public prosecutors (introduced by Mr. Russell Gurney), and another (prepared by the Attorney-General) for repealing the section of the Jurors' Act of last year relating to the payment of jurors.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## THE ADMIRALTY BOARD.

The Duke of SOMERSET moved that a Committee be appointed to inquire into the present state of the Board of Admiralty, with reference to the recent changes in the constitution of the board and the practical working of that department. A discussion thereupon ensued, which resulted in the motion being agreed to.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## REORGANISATION OF THE ARMY.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply, Mr. CARDWELL rose to explain the provisions of the measure for the reorganisation of the Army. He referred to the importance of the question and the deep interest which it had necessarily excited, owing to the recent events on the Continent. The object which the Government had in view was to unite into one harmonious whole all the different forces which at present existed—the regular army, the reserves, the militia, and the volunteers—and to ask the opinion and the assent of the House to a broad and comprehensive measure at a time when there was no danger to be apprehended, and, at the same time, to provide that their plan should be elastic and expansive, whenever the circumstances of the country should require it. In considering this plan, they must bear in mind the peculiar circumstances of this country, and the necessity that the system of national defence must harmonise with the Constitutional institutions of the country. The total Estimate for the Army during the present year would be £15,831,300, being an increase of £2,880,700 over the Estimates of last year. Before proceeding to explain the causes and objects of this increase, he stated that during two years no corps except colonial ones had been disbanded, and that was in pursuance of policy that had been sanctioned by the House. He compared the force at home when he came into office with what it was in last July. In December, 1868, the regular force at home was 85,000 men, making, with the Army Reserve, 92,000; whilst in July last there were 84,376 regular forces, which, together with 5000 on their way home from the colonies and the reserve, gave a total of 100,000. He contended that, in the interest of the taxpayers, they must always have in this country reduced battalions as centres capable of immediate expansion when necessary. In July last an additional force of 20,000 men was voted; and in order to dispel the reports that had been circulated with respect to the difficulty of raising those men, he begged to point out that the rate of recruiting last year was higher than during the Crimean War or the Indian Mutiny, which latter was the highest rate ever known up to that time; and this, too, without any bounty. The bill which was passed last Session, although the number raised under it was small, had not yet had a fair trial, and would not until the ranks of the Army were filled, which was now nearly the case. One of the objects of the measure which he was about to propose would be to give greater elasticity to the system of short service established by the Act of last year. With respect to the militia, it was calculated that full force ought to be 139,000 officers and men; but this was more than they had ever been able to raise. The total forces of the country at the present time were 135,000 regulars, 139,000 militia, 14,000 yeomanry, 9000 first army reserve, 30,000 pensioners, and 170,000 volunteers; making a total force of 497,718 men. They had already taken measures to raise the artillery to a force of 336 guns, or sufficient for a force of 125,000 men. After long and due consideration, her Majesty's Government were not prepared to recommend the adoption of a system of compulsory service either for the army or militia, except in the most severe and last necessity. He then proceeded to discuss the question of purchase, and pointed out that, as it was most desirable to unite all the forces into one harmonious whole, it would be impossible for the officers under the system of purchase to interchange in free circulation with those of the corps not under that system. The opinion of the Army at large was in favour of it, and, on the whole, it could not be said to have worked altogether without success. Several Governments had, he believed, considered the question; but so far none had ever felt itself to be in a position to alter, much less to abolish, the system. There was an additional difficulty of the excess beyond the regulated prices, in favour of the recognition of which, although in the face of Acts of Parliament, a Royal Commission of the highest possible authority had reported in the strongest terms. They must also bear in mind that, unless they decided the question of the abolition or non-abolition of purchase, they would find that they could not stir a single step; therefore a scale had been framed by most able authorities, which would be laid before the House, and, he believed, would be found to do justice to every possible case. He then pointed out that, in order to provide for a supply of educated and skilled officers, it would be desirable that the admission to the military colleges should be open to competition, and that facilities should be afforded for officers who had served in the militia entering the regular army; and also that under this system any promotion out of the ordinary course of seniority, from and including the rank of Major-General, should take place on the recommendation of the officers holding high commands, but with the approval and sanction of the Secretary of State for War. He now came to the connection of the regular and the auxiliary forces. In the first place, it would be proposed that there should be a fixed and permanent staff for them, and that the appointments in the militia and the volunteers should be transferred from the Lord Lieutenants of the counties to the War Office, so that the whole three forces should be directly brought under one authority; and in



order to give a greater local interest and connection to them, be pointed out that it was desirable to retain the local connection between the counties and certain regiments. For this purpose facilities would be afforded in the recruiting departments; and also for the militia and the regiments connected with the same counties. With respect to the volunteer force, a much more careful organisation was required, more especially as regards the efficiency of the officers, for whom additional schools of instruction and other facilities would be afforded. He then proceeded to sum up the objects and results of the scheme, which was, first, to provide that all the various forces, both regular, auxiliary, and reserve, should be under one command; that each service, as far as possible, in organisation, equipment, discipline, and training should be harmonious; secondly, to secure that there should be an adequate strength of the scientific corps, artillery and cavalry—arms which required longer training to make perfect—should be ready for every possible emergency; and that the other forces should be maintained on an economical footing, but on such a plan as would permit of their easy and immediate expansion, together with a reserve to fall back upon in case of need; and, thirdly, to secure that there should be an adequate supply of able, efficient, and well-trained officers for all the services alike, together with a well-appointed and working service of transport and supply. The total of the forces provided by the present Estimates was £31,600, and it would be the object of the Government to fill up the reserves as rapidly as possible, and with that view to extend the system of short services. The vote for the number of men was then formally proposed, but, after a few words from Sir J. Pakington, was withdrawn, and progress reported.

The University Tests Bill and the Jurist Act (1870) Amendment Bill were severally read the second time.

#### PRINCESS LOUISE'S DOWRY.

In Committee of the whole House, Mr. GLADSTONE moved, without any observations, a vote of £30,000 as the dowry of Princess Louise. Mr. P. A. TAYLOR opposed the vote. After some remarks from Mr. Disraeli, Sir R. Peel, and Mr. Gladstone, the Committee divided, when the numbers were—for the vote, 350; against, 1.

#### THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

THE ARMY Estimates for 1871-2 were issued on Saturday. They amount to a total of £15,851,700; but from this a deduction must be made of £1,154,000, as representing the estimated Exchequer extra receipts, leaving the net charge, £14,697,700. The net expenditure last year was £11,665,985; and in 1869-70 it amounted to £12,444,765. The Estimates for the current year are therefore the heaviest of any presented to Parliament since Mr. Cardwell's appointment to the Ministry of War.

With five exceptions, there is an increase in every item of expenditure on the regular forces. The administration of martial law is to cost less by £16,700; the yeomanry cavalry, less by £200; the control establishment, less by £600; miscellaneous services less by £7300; and "administration of the Army" less by £23,000. Amongst the principal items of increase are £640,000 for regimental pay, £237,300 for militia pay, £307,300 for provisions, transport, &c., £327,000 for clothing, £995,400 for "supply, manufacture, and repair of warlike and other stores," £288,400 for superintending establishments, and £73,300 for the volunteers. The total vote for the effective services is £13,554,200, as against £10,668,200 twelve months ago.

The regular forces to be provided for number 133,201, or more by 19,980 than were included in last year's estimates. This increase was voted upon an army supplementary estimate presented to Parliament in August last, and the additional expense was provided for by a vote of credit for £2,000,000 taken at the same time. The numbers of the additional forces are as follow:—Royal Horse Artillery, 787; Cavalry of the Line, 1888; Royal Artillery, 4467; Royal Engineers, 333; Foot Guards, 700; Infantry of the Line, 11,602; Army Service Corps, 319; Army Hospital Corps, 168; total increase, 20,264. The decreases are:—Cavalry Dépôts, 9; Infantry Dépôts, 45; Army Hospital Corps, 28; Colonial Corps, 202; total decrease, 284.

With regard to the reserve forces, the total estimate is £1,651,900, showing an increase of £369,600. The vote for militia pay and allowances is £957,300; for the yeomanry cavalry, £81,700; for the volunteers, £485,700. The proposed amount for the army reserve force (including enrolled pensioners), is £127,200, or nearly double the amount last year. In the explanatory particulars it is shown that pay is provided for training the full quota of the militia; such additional men as may be raised will be trained as recruits at the local dépôts for varying periods not exceeding three months. The period of preliminary drill for all recruits has been increased from fourteen days to twenty-eight, prior to training. All the allowances of the militia have been calculated for the increased numbers, and additional number of days' training.

The volunteer vote shows an increase of £2524 in the pay of sergeant instructors, on account of a larger number being employed. The capitation grants to volunteers show an increase of £46,297, the number of efficient volunteers being very little in excess of last year, but the extra efficiencies have increased. The greater portion of the additional vote is provided to meet the capitation grant which may be earned by officers and non-commissioned officers before March 31 next. A sum of £29,800 is taken for the expense of the volunteers attending camps of instruction, of officers attending the schools, and of medical attendance on the permanent staff of volunteer corps. Under the vote for the army reserve force there is an increase of £61,200, which includes a provision for raising the first-class army reserve to 9000 men. The second-class army reserve enrolled pensioners will be raised to 30,000 men, one third of whom will be called out for training.

With respect to the large increase in the manufacture and repair of warlike and other stores there is an explanation to the effect that it is chiefly due to expenditure upon the manufacture of guns for the fortifications which are approaching completion, and for 35-ton guns and reserves for the Navy. A supply of Snider rifles is required to replace those issued from store to the reserve forces, and additional expense arises in consequence of the introduction of a new small-arm at the same time. The ammunition for the breech-loading arm is 50 per cent more costly than that for the muzzle-loading arm. The reserve of field guns for the increased force of artillery is to be increased. Gunpowder and gun-cotton for a supply of torpedoes are for the first time provided. Pebble powder has been introduced into the service, and a supply will be obtained from the trade. Transport carriages will be constructed in accordance with the reports of the committees which have been recently considering the question of the patterns to be adopted. An increase in the store of camp equipage to provide for camps of instruction has been provided for. The charges for saddlery and accoutrements are larger than those for last year, owing to the increase in field artillery and cavalry and the additional force of militia.

Upon works and buildings there is an augmented charge of £285,400, and it is thus accounted for:—Three additional officers are to be temporarily employed on the plans for defensive positions. Additions have been made to the subordinate staff to replace barrack-sergeants and to take charge of new forts and buildings which have been completed. Provision has been made for the expense of surveys of defensive positions around London and between London and the coast. The engineering services in connection with torpedo defences of the principal military stations at home and abroad are here provided for, consisting mainly of the telegraph wires and instruments. Eight thousand pounds have been provided for the purchase of rope mantlets and steam machinery for engineer parks, for the equipment of fortresses. New fortifications are proposed at Dover, Harwich, and Malta, and a new powder magazine on the Medway. Provision is made for additional barrack accommodation at various stations, rendered necessary by the increase of field artillery; and also for alterations, improvements, and repairs to the barracks generally, consequent on the increased force.

The vote for the non-effective services is £2,297,500; an increase of £700. These include rewards for distinguished service, pay of reduced and retired officers, pensions, and superannuations. The principal item of increase is £12,800 for out-pensions, while there is a decrease of £51,400 in the pay of retired officers.

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#### NATIONAL SUPREMACY.

SEVERAL times since the beginning of the great Continental struggle, of which we all so ardently hope the end is now approaching, public writers of different schools have sought to excuse either the ex-Emperor (as representing the assumed feelings of the French nation) or the nation itself, for going to war with Germany. The pleas put forward have been various; and there is, perhaps, not one of them which we ourselves, before we had cut our wisdom-teeth, should not have been ready as a nation to adopt in similar case. Let us, then, beat our breasts, and take care to harbour none but kindly thoughts of our sorely-trying sister among the peoples. But let us also look about us a little in this matter.

England, we have repeatedly been told, would have been as eager to rush into war in order to assert her naval supremacy as France was (assumed to be) in order to assert her military supremacy. Now, are these things so? We may sing "Rule, Britannia!" with much bluster, and otherwise crow on our own little mound of earth; but should we be ready to go to war in order merely to try our strength?

We believe the majority of sensible Englishmen, those who in the long run rule, would not be ready to do anything of the kind. The question remains—What should we, in fact, be ready to do—or, what *ought* we to be ready to do—in case of need?

In any given forest it is almost a certainty that some tree will be taller than all the rest. It is probable that there is one man, in any hundred taken at random, who is stronger than the remainder. And so on, through things, and individual men, and nations of men.

Again, it is trite to remark that there are such things as individual and national genius. The genius of the Athenian was for beauty and speculative philosophy; the genius of the Roman was for law and civic order; and the genius of the Hebrew for theocratic national culture. The genius of the (mainly) Celto-Romanic race inhabiting France is versatile, vivid, and of darting swiftness and grace; that of the Teuton, his so-dangerous neighbour (as the Teuton might phrase it), is cool, tenacious, and, above all, "long-headed." Now, it is useless kicking against the pricks. The German could as little equal the French in epigram and social grace as the Englishman could. Greece did her work; so did Rome; so did Syria. About all these national supremacies there is, we may say, a fatality. If a nation finds it legibly written in its past history that it has such and such a bent or genius, it may reasonably rejoice in it. And as to being jealous of a rival, something must be pardoned to poor humanity.

Something; but there is an obvious limit. If we found another nation treading on the heels of our naval supremacy, we should be bound, if we held that supremacy to be our safeguard, to do all we justly could in order to keep it intact. If another nation increased its fleet so as manifestly to threaten ours, we should, no doubt, look about us. But surely very few sane Englishmen would think of going about to attack another nation at sea merely because it had won a battle on the ocean with another naval Power, and just to see which was the stronger, England or that nation. This would be national vanity run mad—a crime for which history would have a verdict of tremendous severity.

Again let us try to get it understood that we are not criticising France, and are only concerned to assert a plain distinction, which public writers of the rank of Mr. Arthur Helps and Mr. Frederic Harrison, to say nothing of smaller persons, have overlooked. Surely the oversight is a little unpatriotic. It is one thing to keep our national capacity of self-defence up to its full pitch, or to assert our power in case of attack, but it would be quite another matter to fret and fume over the growth of another nation, and to act as if its victories over a third nation were insults to ourselves. We believe—at least, we firmly trust—that Englishmen as a body have satisfied themselves that the less we think and talk about "supremacy" the better, and that our true policy now is, having repented of all past bluster and meddle-and-muddle, to mind our business here at home. True, the very idea of our being in a proper state for ends of self-defence implies that for those ends we should be supreme—that is, stronger than our adversary; but that is the only supremacy which can be justly attained by trying for it. For the rest, we may take an honest pride in those national qualities which we fancy have made us what we are; but to assert them for the mere sake of asserting them, and at other people's expense, will surely never be the policy of England.

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY have elected Mr. J. M. Barclay, A.R.S.A., and Mr. G. Paul Chalmers, A.R.S.A., Academicians, in room of the late Mr. D. O. Hill and Mr. James Giles.

#### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY will, it is expected, leave Windsor next week for Buckingham Palace, and will probably remain in the metropolis three or four days. Her Majesty, it is understood, will very likely pay a visit to Claremont about the end of the month.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has named Monday, May 8 next, for the anniversary festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, at which he has consented to preside.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH has so far recovered from his recent indisposition as to purpose leaving Blenheim Palace for London this week.

THE EARL OF MILTOWN is reported to be lying in a dangerous state at his seat, Ruseborough House. His Lordship is suffering from a severe attack of congestion of the lungs, brought on by a cold while hunting with the Kildare hounds. Sir D. Corrigan and Dr. Stokes are in attendance, and report slightly favourable symptoms.

THE HONOUR OF KNIGHTHOOD has been conferred upon Mr. C. R. Turner, late senior Master of the Court of Queen's Bench.

DR. JEREMIE, Dean of Lincoln, and late Regius Professor in the University of Cambridge, has given the sum of £1000 to the University for the purpose of founding two annual prizes for the encouragement of a critical study of the Septuagint. The offer has been accepted.

MR. G. SANT, R.A., has been appointed Principal Painter in Ordinary to her Majesty, in the place of the late Sir George Hayter.

SIR RODERICK MURCHISON has much improved in health within the last few days. He enjoys more tranquil rest at night, passes the day cheerfully, and continues to gain strength rapidly.

M. GAMBETTA is said to be seriously ill. M. Delescluze is also ill.

THE REV. J. B. LIGHTFOOT, D.D., Hulsean Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, has been appointed to the Canonry at St. Paul's vacated by the death of Mr. Melville.

SIR HENRY STOKES was, on Wednesday, returned for Ripon, by a majority of 220 over Mr. Cayley, the defeat of the latter having been even more decisive than at the general election.

THE KELLY COLLEGE, founded by the munificence of the late Admiral Kelly, who left £200,000 for that purpose, is to be erected at Tavistock. The Duke of Bedford has offered a site near that town, on the Parkworth-road, consisting of twenty acres, which the trustees have accepted, and which will go a good way towards the requirements of the college.

THE COUNCIL OF KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON, at their last meeting conferred the highest distinction in their gift—that of Honorary Fellow—upon the Rev. Canon Liddon, an old student of the college, and the Rev. Henry White, Chaplain of the House of Commons, a former Censor.

MR. ALDERMAN LEEMAN, Lord Mayor of York, who represented that city in the Liberal interest from 1865 to 1868, has been elected for the constituency without opposition, in succession to Mr. J. P. Brown-Westhead, resigned.

AN OPEN COMPETITION for three situations of assistant to the Clerk of the Furniture will be held forthwith in London, the preliminary examination on the 3rd proximo, and the competitive examination on the 7th and following days. The salary is £130 a year, rising by £5 yearly to £160, together with an allowance of £1 is a week in lieu of apartments.

THE DEATH OF MR. JAMES SIDEBOTTOM, M.P., is announced. The hon. gentleman, who was a Conservative in politics, was returned for Stalybridge at the general election of 1868. Mr. Sidebottom was in his seventy-fourth year.

PRINCE NAPOLEON, it is said, offered himself to Prussia, not as Regent of France under the Prince Imperial, but as successor to Napoleon III., with the full Imperial power.

THE GOOD-SERVICE PENSION OF £100 A YEAR, vacated by the death of Dr. John Wilson, has been awarded to Dr. James Wingate Johnson, retired Inspector-General of Hospitals.

THE TORONTO LEGISLATURE has voted 30,000 dols. to assist and encourage immigration, and 20,000 dols. to erect houses and clear free-grant lots for settlers.

MR. EDWARD W. MALKIN HANSE, of the Middle Temple, was, on Monday, elected clerk to the Liverpool School Board, at a salary of £400 per annum.

A GIRL NAMED ELEY, aged thirteen, died at Leeds, on Tuesday, from hydrophobia, having been bitten in the hand by a dog a few weeks ago.

NOT ONLY FAMINE FEVER, but typhus of a very malignant sort, is prevailing in Paris. There are many cases of the spotted typhus, that gave so great an additional horror to the lazarettes of Metz.

THE DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE which was to have been given by the Southern Dramatic Club, at St. George's Hall, in aid of the French Relief Fund, is unavoidably postponed to Friday, March 8.

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE are to be vaccinated at once, and non-compliance with the order will be followed by an invitation to resign.

THE WEAVERS EMPLOYED BY MESSRS. BAGULEY AND DRIVER, at the Canal Mill, Blackburn, have struck work in consequence of their masters having refused to abandon the "steaming" process, which is held to be prejudicial to the health of the workmen.

"CHAM" represents in *Chariot* a Paris father trying to escape with his child from a shower of projectiles. "What are those things falling around us?" asks the child. "My son," answers the father, "it is the final bouquet of the great fireworks in honour of St. Napoleon."

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS into the Exchequer, from April 1 to Feb. 11, amounted to £57,338,598, as compared with £53,112,423 in the corresponding period of the previous twelve months. The expenditure has been £59,430,957. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last exceeded 4,000,000 sterling.

THE GOVERNMENT has decided on the erection of a large central powder-magazine on the uninhabited marsh-land between Chatham and Sheerness, adjoining the Medway, at an estimated outlay of £90,000, which sum has been taken in this year's Estimates. Of this amount, £20,000 will be voted this year, and the remainder as the work proceeds. The sum of £21,000 has likewise been taken in this year's Estimates for the erection of a Royal Engineer institute and halls of study, at the School of Military Engineering, Brompton.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR has, by command of his Majesty the Sultan, conferred upon Mr. E. J. Reed, C.B., the Imperial Order of the Medjidie of a very high grade (the second). The stars and ribbon of the order were accompanied by a valuable diamond snuff-box, as a further mark of the Sultan's favour. Of all the naval officers decorated by the Sultan after the Russian War, only one or two received a higher grade of the Medjidie than the third.

SIR J. YORKE SCARLETT, in addressing a volunteer gathering, last Saturday evening, expressed his concurrence in the views of Sir W. Mansfield respecting the ultimate necessity of the ballot for raising the militia. As to the demand for the abolition of the purchase system, what, he asked, should be substituted for it? Selection meant favouritism, and seniority stagnation. Although he was not prepared to defend it to the uttermost, it had, upon the whole, worked well. He deprecated the idea of applying the Prussian military system to this country.

WILLIAM ARTHUR CARLINE, steward of the Pembroke, has been convicted of fraud on the Admiralty, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and at the expiration of that period to be dismissed her Majesty's service. The steward serving at the Royal Naval Barracks at Sheerness pleaded guilty, on Tuesday, to a charge of fraud preferred by the Admiralty. In consideration of the prisoner's previous good character, sentence of dismissal only was passed.

DEPARTURE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS.—The intention announced in the Queen's Speech of sending out an English Commission to confer with American Commissioners on the Alabama question, the fishery claims, and other long-pending international disputes between England and America has been speedily followed up. The English contingent embarked on board the Cunard mail-steamers *Cuba* last Saturday, at Liverpool. The party numbered six diplomatists—who each occupied a separate state-room on board the *Cuba*—and six servants. The Commissioners proper were Earl De Grey and Ripon, Lord President of the Council of Ministers, and Mr. Montague Bernard, Professor of International Law at Oxford University. These were accompanied by Lord Tenterden, of the Foreign Office, who will act as secretary to the British Commissioners; Viscount Goderich (son of Earl De Grey and Ripon), Mr. Cremer, and Mr. Henry Howard. Canada was to have been represented in the Commission by Sir John Macdonald and Sir John Rose; but as the private engagements of the latter prevent him from accepting the post, it has been offered to the Right Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., late Secretary of State for India, who, with a becoming sense of public duty, has at once accepted it, and will sail to join Lord De Grey in the course of the present week. In some respects the change is advantageous, for though the Provincial knowledge of Sir John Rose would have been most useful in discussing the questions relating to the Canadian fisheries, Sir Stafford Northcote is probably more intimately acquainted with the considerations arising out of the Alabama claims. The United States Commissioners, all of whom the Senate has confirmed, are Secretary Fish, General Schenck, Judge Nelson (of the Supreme Court), Ebenezer R. Hoar (late Attorney-General), and Senator Thomas Williams.



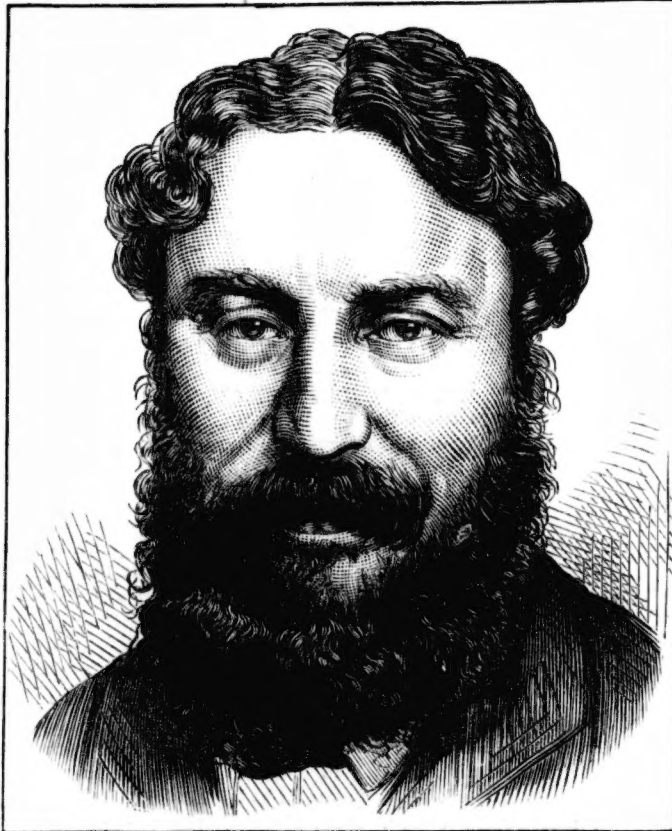
## THE ROOM OVER TEMPLE BAR.

We dare say thousands of people, as they passed under the arch of Temple Bar, have wondered what sort of place was overhead; and we are quite sure that millions have passed through and never thought anything about it. But it is an interesting place, that room over Temple Bar, nevertheless; and Mr. Walter Thornbury wrote a curious story for *Tom Hood's Comic Annual* this year concerning it. From this story, which is supposed to be told by the head clerk at Childs' Bank, we make the following extracts:—

My readers will know the room. It is a transparent chamber, having a round-headed small-paned church window on each side of it, east and west—that is, the Strand side and the Fleet-street side. The one window looks into London, the other into the liberty of Westminster; for the old gate that little Sir Christopher built after the Great Fire stands on a frontier, and is, indeed, a sort of fragile fortress, or glass house, from which you might bombard, if you were so evilly minded, either the City or the suburbs. From the one window, between the one-legged fantastic statues of Charles I. and his son Charles II., you look up the Strand to where the sickly trees of St. Clement Danes partly hide the church, which stands awkwardly sideways across the road in order to face the east. The east window, on the other hand, stands between Elizabeth and James, looking towards St. Dunstan's. Many a time these identical panes of glass have flashed back the red light of the torches of the wild Protestant mobs that, under the secret direction of that worthy naval Chaplain, Titus Oates, used to come here in Charles II.'s time, and crown with laurel that very statue of Elizabeth you see still.

Forty-three years now, and I have scarcely missed fifty days that I have not passed through that side arch on the Temple side, and gone up the step to the old bank founded by Sir Josiah Child, that eminent writer on the laws of trade in the reign of Charles II., who, indeed, made him Chairman of the India Company—a post of great honour and commercial dignity. Lord! it seems only yesterday, though it was forty-three years ago, that I first became clerk in Childs' bank. I remember being taken into the bank-parlour to be shown to the three partners. I seem to feel the perspiration stand on my forehead now when I think of how hot and nervous I felt as I stood there in a bottle-green tail-coat, with gilt buttons, and a striped, Manchester waistcoat, and felt afraid I was dressed too grand and not plain and business-like enough.

Mr. Calvert, the senior partner—a thin, snuffy old gentleman, with ruffles, I remember—looked at me very hard, and said something about "Fine feathers don't always make fine birds." The second partner, Mr. Cholmondeley—a jovial, rosy, portly squire, who lived in the country and hunted foxes—smiled and began to twirl his thumbs; while the third partner—Mr. Chetwynd, father of our present senior partner—said something kind to encourage me, for he saw I was ready to drop. He poured me out a glass of splendid port—the firm always keep a pipe in the house for luncheon in the parlour—and told me I was a fine lad, and had a good character for steadiness and industry, and that he would pledge himself I should do; and then he told me to drink "Church and King," and "Success to the Firm," and I did so. It got in my head, the wine did, and when I was going up, soon after, to the muniment-room over the Bar, I began to sing, "I've kissed and I've prattled with fifty fair maids"—and for that unseasonable merriment my father rebuked me soundly—singing



THE LATE T. W. ROBERTSON, ESQ.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLES WATKINS.—SEE THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES," FEB. 11, PAGE 90.)

songs in a banking-house being to his mind—and mine, too, now—almost as bad as singing songs in a church.

Then my father took me all over the house—into the kitchen, so clean and sanded, with long tables, where the clerks—they were not fine gentlemen then—used to dine, like so many children of the firm; the strong-room, where most of the noblemen's jewels and securities were, and thousands upon thousands in plate and bullion; and, last of all, we went—(and this was considered a special favour)—to the room over the Bar, one of the most characteristic spots in London, not excepting even St. John's Gate-way, where Garrick made his début, or London Stone, or the old Roman milestone in Cannon-street, which Jack Cade struck with his sword. I was delighted, for even then I felt attached to the place. Poor old Temple Bar! We shall miss you when you are gone!

One side of the long room over the gateway, just over the

ceaseless stream of carts and coaches, is piled with tin boxes, lettered with the names of the persons whose title-deeds they contain; and in one corner, the barber's side, stood two ponderous iron chests, clamped and soldered up. These were chests brought over by a refugee soon after the breaking out of the French Revolution. They belonged to a Marquis de Rambouillet, who fled after the sack of the Tuileries, which he had bravely helped to defend, and had since perished in the war in La Vendée. The son of the Marquis, making peace with the First Consul after his father's death, fought in Napoleon's army in Russia, but was never seen after the terrible passage of the Beresina, where 36,000 French soldiers perished. Application was made for the chests in 1814 by a sort of nephew of the Marquis, after his cousin's death, but the firm was advised not to surrender them to him till the inheritance was entirely undisputed. The bigger chest was supposed to contain diamonds and other jewels to the value of £82,000.

I never look upon that room over the Bar but I think of how, this very day of my initiation, we stood at the Strand window just at sunset, and my father, sitting down on the chest in the shady part of the room (for it was summer), told me of the curious way the two chests had been left in the care of the bank: he and my mother then (1793) lived in the bank, and took charge of it, seeing that it was properly watched, and that the watchman did not absent himself or let in friends or gossips after dark. People were not afraid of living near their business then. I can see my father now, with his high, black stock and full, grey whiskers, as he sat there telling me. One October night, nearly at midnight, lying awake, he heard two carriages dash through Temple Bar, and pull up with a furious jerk just beyond the entrance to the Temple. Five minutes afterwards there came a nervous, hurried rap at the bank door. My father looked out of window, and saw by the light of a dull street lamp a woman wrapped up in a cloak, and two hackney-coaches with a square chest on the top of each.

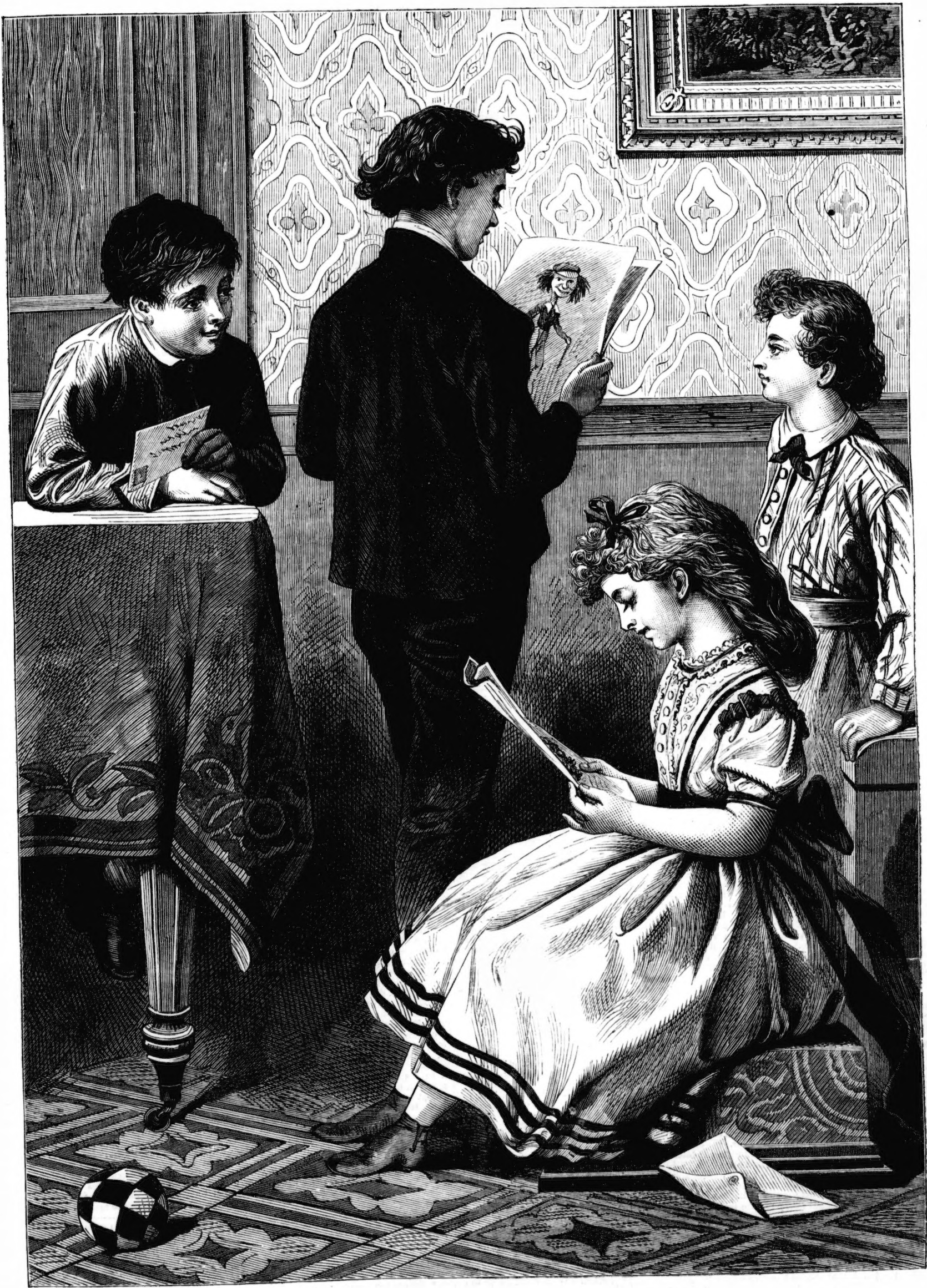
On asking her what she wanted at that late hour, the lady made some reply, but the wind was so violent that my father could not hear a word, but he could see her wave a little white hand to him to come down; so he dressed himself hastily and went down. He then found a very beautiful lady, with the manners of a queen, who told him that she was the Marquise de Rambouillet, and that she had just escaped from France, and was about to join her husband at Bordeaux. She had brought with her, she said, at the advice of her husband's bankers in Paris, Messrs. Destouche and Guerrisseau, No. 12, Rue Vivienne,

two chests, the one full of title-deeds, the other (the larger) of plate and family jewels to the extent of eighty-two thousand pounds. The family seal was on both the padlocks. My father was at first unwilling to accept such a valuable deposit without consulting the firm, but the Marchioness, shedding tears, fell on her knees. My father raised her with great respect and deference, and at last consented to receive the chests, giving her a temporary receipt, and agreeing to send her a more formal one directly the firm arrived the next morning. The Marchioness thanked him very warmly, but could not wait an hour, as a vessel was then waiting for her at Gravesend ready to take her straight to Bordeaux, where a Royalist insurrection was planning. She, however, gave an address at Nantes, where she could be written to under a feigned name, it being dangerous in France then to own oneself an aristocrat. The lady then went to the door, not caring for the rain or wind; and my father saw that there were two



THE ROOM OVER TEMPLE BAR.





ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.



armed men in each carriage. The drivers brought up two chests and carried them up to the muniment-room, where they remained almost forgotten for years. The story was remembered, however, among the clerks, and I often told it to friends of the firm, when I saw that my conversation was not intrusive. Often, when I have been going over the house and looking up, I have seen those two chests and tapped them with my knuckles, wondering what they contained, and where the rightful owner was. Then I would wonder if they would ever be opened, and thought what a pity it was such riches should lie useless.

Years went on, and still those chests gathered dust, and no one either came or wrote for them. In time my father died, and I succeeded him as head clerk.

The bank was going on nobly—firm and safe as the Bank of England—when there came that fatal panic year in 1825, four years after the accession of George IV. 1825 was a terrible year for the City; terrible for trade and business of all kinds; a stormy year, when firms shook down like dead leaves in a rough autumn night. It passed with me like a bad dream, and every morning when I got up I heard of some fresh crash. Yes, in that fatal year, if you will believe me, no less than seven hundred and seventy English banks stopped payment. They fell on our right hand and on our left. We pulled on with caution through this heavy sea, almost afraid to disclose to each other our fears. I could see the faces of the three members of the firm grow every day paler and thinner. I used to dread to see their carriage arrive, dread to hear them call to me from the glass door of the bank parlour; I kept a bold face, and smiled and chattered with the persons who came to cruelly draw out the money we could just then so ill spare. I have reason to believe that, in some important cases, this assumed cheerfulness of mine inspired confidence and prevented or retarded the withdrawal of large and useful sums.

At last things became worse and worse—the storm drew nearer, the sky blacker and heavier. Presently it fairly came to this, that, unless the alarm subsided and the money ceased to flow out of our till, the firm—the grand old firm, unshaken for nearly two centuries—must fall like the rest. We were like a wounded man bleeding to death—a drop a second, a gush every minute. It used, I remember, to drive me almost mad to have to keep telling out the guineas when every guinea brought us so many moments nearer to our commercial death and disgrace. For weeks I would not draw my salary, for I was ashamed to strip the falling tree of a single leaf; but I never told the firm, because I would not disgrace them or hurt their very proper pride. We resorted in vain to all sorts of stratagems—employed people to dress up as farmers, and City men, and country gentlemen, to come in with cheques for large sums, which we paid stoutly, so as to delay the real leeches, who were eager to save themselves, whether we (I mean the firm) sank or swam. We opened late and shut at the moment. We sent everywhere among our friends to raise money, but still the gold ran out.

There had been three days of this mortal agony. The evening of the third day, just as the clerks had gone, and I was mournfully looking up my desk and going round to the various safes, the parlour-door opened. Mr. Cholmondeley called me in a low, suppressed voice. I went in and they shut the door. Mr. Chetwynd, who had his elbows on the table and his face buried in his hands, looked up and said,

"Hill, are the other clerks all gone?"

I replied, "Yes."

"Hill," said he, and his eyes looked rather red and odd, "you have been a good servant to us, and we all respect you, and we have called you in, I and my two partners, to tell you that unless we can tide over five days more, till the panic turns, we shall be ruined. Our last hope is this—Mr. Calvert starts directly to post to Exeter, to try to raise twenty-five thousand pounds there from the Devonshire County Bank: they are steady friends of ours, and will help us if they can. If that fails, I see nothing—do you, Mr. Cholmondeley?—nothing but ruin and disgrace."

A desperate effort to raise money from a Devon bank fails, Mr. Calvert, the junior partner, returning from Exeter, unsuccessful; and the old clerk continues the narrative thus:—

I was turning my mind every way to find some hope to which to cling. In doing so, suddenly a thought came down like a sun-beam through the gloom, and seemed to light up all my brain.

"There is one hope," I said.

"What? Tell me," said Mr. Calvert, his eyes brightening.

Quickly I reminded him of the French chest that might never be claimed, the contents of which at least could be taken as a loan. "We'll have it," he said, almost fiercely, "though it was to be sent for to-morrow, and I'll take the responsibility. Get me a crowbar."

I ran down—we all ran down—to the coal-cellar for the crowbar kept there to break the largest lumps of coal. It was large and strong enough to have forced open the gate of a citadel.

"No next of kin as yet," said young Mr. Calvert. "It is ours, at all events, till a man can prove his title to it! We'll have it open, if it held the crown jewels! It is Pandora's box! There is Hope at the bottom, and we'll break in on Hope, and let her out! Charley, can you tell me where there is a lantern? Quick, darling! I am impatient to steer the old craft into harbour again."

We were all eager, so we soon got a lantern, and were on our way to the old room above Temple Bar, where no light had been, at night, for perhaps a hundred years—no light except the glimmer of the Strand and Fleet-street lamps, or during storms a flicker of the lightning. By hard labour that raised clouds of thick smoky dust, we soon cleared away the pile of old cash-books, ledgers, and tin boxes, and got down to the larger of the chests—the chest with the Marquis's name and his big red seals—large coroneted seals; the date, September, 1793, and two or three marks in cypher, in another hand, which we could not decipher. It was very heavy, and things moved about inside when we slightly lifted it.

"Eighty thousand pounds in gold and jewels!—that'll do for us," said Mr. Calvert, poisoning his iron bar. "Take care, Charley, darling, or I shall knock your brains out! I'm such a greedy thief! The old firm will be saved after all, and you'll be mine, dearest, after all! Hurrah! First blow—now, then! The barber will think we're going to storm his house, and the hackney coachmen below will think we're turned blacksmiths. Now, then! open, you beggar!"

Gazing itself could not have resisted those wedging blows between the lid and the box. Soon the solder flew off; we battered out a small crevice; the side sheet of iron began to yield.

"It smells curious, doesn't it?" said Mr. Calvert.

A horrible effluvia arose. One angry drive of the bar, the lid flew back, and clashed, resounding on the floor. We looked in with eager eyes. To our indescribable dismay and to our bitter vexation, we saw only a fetid mass of what had once been Perigord or foie gras pies, now a detestable heap with an unbearable odour.

Mr. Calvert rested on the iron bar and thought. "We are doomed to be ruined; our last hope fails us," said I. "I throw up the game and am ready for the worst."

Charlotte began to cry.

"Ruined? nonsense," said Mr. Calvert. "No! love quickens my senses. I see it all. In the confusion of fright the French servants have crammed the food by mistake in the wrong box, where it has been soldered up, instead of the jewels. There is still a hope that the other box may contain, not musty papers, but the jewels—the jewels that should have been here."

"My own dear, dear Frank," said Charlotte; "come, let me break the other box open."

"You little darling thief! Why you couldn't even lift the crowbar, much less use it. Stand aside, and I'll drive into it in a jiffy. Come, I'll bet you I lift it in three tries. Here goes! I'll give it one first in the lock. It's very light, though; I'm almost afraid it's all up."

To work went the "cracksman," as he would insist on being called, but the chest proved firmer than the other. It took a

quarter of an hour's hard reasoning before the lid began to give. At last three sharp prizes with both our weights tore it off. In a moment we were on our knees over it, with the lantern held anxiously by Charlotte.

"Another blank," said Mr. Calvert, removing four or five folds of velvet and some wrappers of old quilted silk. "The Marquis's old clothes—hang it all!" said Mr. Calvert. Then, removing the last square of silk—"No, by Jove! No! A dozen gold salvers, gold sword-hilts, and four cases with—diamonds! What sparklers! Eighty thousand pounds! I should rather think so. Hill, we are saved once more. Now, Charley, we shall be happy. This will stave us over. Blessings on the next of kin, wherever he is; and more blessings on him if he is nowhere. Charley is mine! Yes, I see she is by your look. She owned last Sunday she liked me just a little. Hill, Hill! I'm going wild with joy! You guard this while I go off in the post-chaise and tell Chetwynd and Cholmondeley of our good fortune, and how it was all your thought. I'll send in a supper from the 'Rainbow,' and be back in an hour and share it with you. Charley can go to Mrs. Bellamy's, the hairdresser's, and sleep; and you shall have the sofa bed in the back parlour, while I keep guard, for we must not leave this place to night. You must have the watchman call you at three, though, for I am dead tired. You can lock me in here and keep the key. It's all right."

Yes, that lucky find did save us. The chest was never claimed. The Rambouilletes, we soon after discovered, had all perished in the Revolutionary wars; and, if the treasure is ever claimed, the firm will always be ready to pay the money.

#### ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

THE 14th of February has once more come and gone, and once again have weary postmen been almost worked to death. While St. Valentine's Day brings pleasingly-anxious anticipations to youths and maidens, the name of the saint is a word of dread to unlucky and, in most cases, non-sentimental letter-carriers; for on this day their toil, severe enough at all times, becomes downright slavery. The Post-Office authorities, we believe, employ a certain number of supernumeraries on the 14th of February; but the aid thus afforded barely enables the department to get through the enormous quantity of extra work; it does very little indeed to lighten the labour of the regular postman. In certain "gentlemanly" departments of the public service—the War Office, for instance—we believe that all extra duties (real or fictitious) are liberally rewarded, in consideration of the hard work which the poor clerks there have ordinarily to perform; and we wonder if the "authorities" at the Post Office are equally considerate for the postmen on Valentine's Day, and the really extra duties they have then to perform. A reasonable gratuity to each of the weary men would greatly sweeten their toil; and we are sure that no one would begrudge it to them—certainly not that merry group in our Engraving—each and all of whom—save, perhaps, the archer who has got an "ugly one"—would willingly give up a week's allowance of "lollypops" to reward the postman who brought their valentines. We commend that matter, extra remuneration for extra work, to the consideration of the new Postmaster-General, who, being an Irishman, may be presumed to bear a generous heart and an open hand.

As a good deal of misconception exists as to the life and character of St. Valentine, the following account of his saintship, which we condense from Alban Butler's "Lives of the Saints," may be interesting:—"St. Valentine, martyr, was a holy priest of Rome, who, with St. Marius and his family, assisted the martyrs in the persecution under Claudius II. He was apprehended and sent by the Emperor to the Prefect of Rome, who, on finding all his promises ineffectual to make him renounce his faith, commanded him to be beaten with clubs and afterwards to be beheaded. This sentence was executed on Feb. 14, about the year A.D. 270. Pope Julius is said to have built to his memory, near Ponte Mole, a church which for a long time gave its name to the gate now called Porta del Popolo, but which formerly was known as Porta S. Valentini, and in classical times as the Porta Flaminia. The greater part of his relics are now in a church not far from the gate. The name of Valentine is celebrated as that of an illustrious martyr in the Sacramentary of St. Gregory, the Roman Missal of Thomasius, in the Calendar of Fronto, and in all other martyrologies of this day. To abolish the 'lewd, heathenish, and superstitious' custom of boys drawing the names of girls in honour of their goddess Februa Juno, on the 15th of this month, several zealous pastors substituted the names of this and other saints in billets given on this day." Hence, probably, arose the connection of St. Valentine with the Post-Office authorities, by a gradual process which it is not difficult to understand.

To all who desire to know everything about St. Valentine's Day and valentines, we commend a little book on the subject published—and given away—by Mr. W. H. Cremer, jun., of Regent-street.

As to the character of the missives with which postmen are loaded on St. Valentine's Day, a contemporary remarks:—"The wares proper to the occasion are every year growing more elaborate and artistic. Some of them are not only nice to look at, delicious to smell, and pretty to read, but are so composed as to contain sweet, tunable airs, which you can set going at a touch. All the phases of the tender sentiment can be suited by the modern billet, from the mood which is best expressed in verses, to the more thoughtful disposition which combines rhyme with half-a-dozen squares of scented soap. The soap seems to us a rather infelicitous method of hinting at a romantic attachment; but our age is practical. It is to be observed that the little fat boys, the Cupids who sported with the ease and elegance of tumbler pigeons above the devoted heads of the lovers, are going out of fashion, and that the old familiar illustration of the gentleman in the blue coat handing a pink lady over a style (the gallantry of the scene was sanctified by the representation of a church in the landscape, in which everything would be made all right presently) has altogether disappeared. The quality of the letterpress has not changed. It is as enchantingly stupid as ever. There is none of the mysticism and trouble in it of our current love lyrics; it deals with the venerable furniture and equipments of a different era; Cupid is retained in its service; even forgotten Venus is invoked to eke out the shambling confessions of the swain, who dispatches a picture-box to his mistress, which includes a suggestion of Aphrodite's origin in holding the material for a brown Windsor lather. We must venture to regret the introduction of the utilitarian valentine. If gloves are permitted, where are we to stop? Gloves might be the beginning of a movement to which a ham, say, would put a finish. Here, however, we trespass upon a ground of taste on which it is not necessary to linger. It seems to us that the chief beauty of the custom should consist in its dainty, complimentary, good-for-nothingness: a valentine should be as a bouquet, with no excuse for its construction save its fragile elegance and half-silly tenderness. As for the valentines that are no valentines, the ill-natured cartels of anonymous spite and abuse, we sincerely trust that the supply of such disagreeable preparations vastly exceeds the demand. We regret to see so many of them in the windows, and only hope that the shopkeepers have not accurately gauged the wants of the valentine-sending public in this direction at least. The dolt who would think of forwarding a scurrilous picture and tag to a girl must wear a dull pate and a mean heart; and it is for creatures of this complexion that the miserable caricatures of the stationers' are invented. We are not going to cry out against the festival of St. Valentine. We must remember that there are a great number of fresh people young every year, and we must let them have their cakes and ale, though pastry has lost its charms for us."

DR. STENHOUSE, than whom few men (says the *Athenæum*) have done more in chemical investigation, and in the practical application of discoveries, physical and chemical, to the useful purposes of life, has, by her Majesty's direction, been granted a pension on the Civil List of £100, "in consideration of his scientific attainments."

#### THE LOUNGER.

LAST year the Army Estimate was £12,965,000. This is an unconscionable sum for so small an army as ours. Army! Our military authorities tell us we have soldiers, but no army. The House of Commons, then, surely, before it consents to the increase of the Estimate, ought to insist upon having these soldiers formed into an army. But it will not do this. I venture to assert that it will not do it. There will be a great deal of talk—most of it useless; but, in the end, Mr. Cardwell will get the extra £2,886,000, and most likely this time next year the country will be in the *status quo ante*—that is, though we shall have more soldiers, we shall still have no army. Is not this passing strange? We can get any amount of money, any number of men, the best guns in the world, rifles superior to any that have hitherto been made, any number of horses for our cavalry; but we cannot get an army. It is exceedingly strange, but not unaccountable. All materials of war can be bought with money; but there is one thing we lack which cannot be bought with money—to wit, military genius; or, if we have it, we cannot get it into the right place. Earl Russell says that the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief is the right man in the right place. But, if this be so, how is it that we have no army? My good Lord, if you had an architect who could not build you a house, would you say that he was in the right place? or a shipbuilder that could not build a ship? or a tailor that could not build a coat? The fact that we have no army is a damning proof that his Grace is not the right man in the right place. Nay, it is asserted that not only he cannot make an army, but he obstructs those who would and could. The Radicals will sternly oppose this addition to the Estimates; but, then, opposition will be of no avail, for the Conservatives will, almost to a man, support the Government; and the vote, in spite of the Radicals, will be carried—and were it twice as much, it would be carried. Reader, next year—from March, 1871, to March, 1872—our Army—or, rather, the soldiers—will cost the country £15,851,700.

There is a strange muddle at the Admiralty. The supreme head, the First Lord, is gone on a cruise for his health. The Chief Constructor, Mr. Reed, resigned some months ago, and his place has not been filled up. Sir Spencer Robinson is no longer Controller. His term of office expired this year, and was not renewed; and in the office of Third Lord he is superseded. Why Sir Spencer Robinson has been superseded, and why his term of office as Controller was not renewed, as it might have been, it is very difficult to discover. Lord Henry Lennox tried on Monday to draw Mr. Gladstone on the subject, but in vain. No doubt, the general reason is a disagreement between Mr. Childers and Sir Spencer. But on what grounds did they disagree? Does Sir Spencer think that in the minute which Mr. Childers published on the loss of the Captain he did not do justice, but injustice, to him, Sir Spencer? Rumour strongly asserts that this is so; and I suspect it is. At all events, these two could not work together, and therefore Sir Spencer, the subordinate, had to leave. But doubtless we shall know more when Lord Henry Lennox brings the question of "the Captain" before the House. This, however, he will not do at present. He has postponed his motion until Mr. Childers shall appear again in his place. But will that ever be? Some of his friends shake their heads doubtfully. Meanwhile, there is much uneasiness at the Admiralty, and rumour says that the Prime Minister is greatly perplexed by the state of affairs there. A Scotch paper says that if Mr. Childers should be compelled to resign, Mr. Gladstone would appoint Lord Halifax to be First Lord, or rather would if no obstacle stood in the way. But, says the Scotch paper, there are obstacles. Mr. Baxter has said that he will not serve under Lord Halifax, and, further, that the appointment of his Lordship would rouse something like a mutiny below the gangway. I know not what authority the Scotch paper has for all this. But, on calling the attention of a Scotch member to the statement, he said he believed "That it is vera true."

At the present time, when we have a virulent epidemic of small-pox raging among us and are likely to be visited by other infectious and contagious diseases ere long, the subject of disinfecting the clothes, &c., of patients suffering from these disorders is of paramount importance, and every means likely to conduce to that end is worthy of attention. Being somewhat curious in such matters, I gladly availed myself on Monday of an invitation to witness in operation an invention designed to accomplish the object in question. The apparatus is the contrivance of Mr. G. C. Fraser, of the firm of Fraser Brothers, engineers, Commercial-road, and was to be seen working at St. Giles's District Board of Works, High Holborn. To that region, accordingly, I wended my way on Monday, and, though so far unfortunate as to arrive after the apparatus had been set to work, I saw and heard sufficient to satisfy me that Mr. Fraser's invention, if not absolutely perfect, is yet calculated to be of immense service. When the work of disinfecting is going on, there is not much to be seen: a small brick erection in a corner, with furnaces beneath, a chimney at top, and a couple of folding-doors in front. That is all; but within those folding-doors the process of disease-killing is believed to be effectually carried on. It is asserted of this apparatus that it combines in itself the means of perfect disinfection, and enables the operation to be performed without danger in the centre of any crowded district—a most important point. The following is the mode of operation and the merits claimed for the invention:—1. The infected clothes are collected in an iron carriage, which is perfectly closed when passing through the streets. 2. The iron carriage is wheeled into a disinfecter, and is, with its contents, disinfected. 3. The clothes are returned to the owner without having been handled or removed from the vehicle. 4. The whole disinfection is thoroughly effected by a heat of 250 deg. Fahr., in addition to powerful sulphur or other fumes. 5. All vapours given off during disinfection are made to pass through the furnace, and are thoroughly destroyed and prevented from passing into the outer air. 6. The daily cost of working is small, and the whole easily managed. If the effect desiderated be thoroughly effected—and of that, of course, I had no means of judging—there can be no doubt as to the simplicity, cheapness, and ease with which the apparatus may be worked; the purchase of the iron truck or carriage, and the erection of the furnace—which might be built on any bit of vacant ground—representing the entire outlay; and certainly to stop the spread of infectious diseases is worth that amount of expenditure. It would be a good thing, in my opinion, if Mr. Fraser's apparatus were provided by the parochial authorities in every district of the metropolis. And the sooner the better; for there is no more effective means of disseminating disease than by permitting healthy persons to come into contact with clothes and other articles that have been used by smallpox patients; and what is true of that disorder is true of all others of a like nature.

#### THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

##### THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

The prominence with which Mr. Carlyle's name has latterly been before the public has made me, and probably some others, turn again to the old familiar books with a freshly-sharpened interest. He has occupied so large a space in the eyes of this generation and has really accomplished so much, that perhaps it may at least provoke curiosity and send readers anew to his books, if I say that this fresh deliberate reading has not been as pleasant as I could have wished. In other and plainer words, this distinguished writer does not show satisfactorily in the light of increased reading and knowledge of life. Of course, an old stager of the library knows how to make allowance for the wearing off of the gloss, the deadening effect of familiarity, and all that. Making such allowance, then, the present old stager feels disappointed in Mr. Carlyle upon a careful and willingly-receptive reading.



His opinions are neither here nor there; one may hate the opinions of Hobbes or Lamennais, and yet read either with profound admiration. It is the final insight that is in question. Take, as I have done, "The Life of Sterling." In the face of all opposition, I do not hesitate to say it is a poor book, and fails in the most serious particulars. Mr. Carlyle affirms, with a confidence amounting to scorn, that Sterling's eight months in the Church were a blunder, and that, not his health, but far deeper causes, determined his departure from Hurstmoor. Well, I am perfectly satisfied that this is all "my eye and my elbow;" that Sterling's best chance of happiness was in some such career as that of a religious teacher; and that his alienation from the old paths was, neither first nor last, anything like what Mr. Carlyle makes out. All this is quite impartial on my part; I am looking at the case as coolly as if Sterling were the chip of Beachy Head which I am using as a letter-weight. And, still looking at him, I say it is as plain as daylight that if Julius Hare knew him not (which is true), neither did Mr. Carlyle.

This is not *apropos de rien*; it is *apropos* of important literary questions. When Dickens or any other distinguished writer dies, people say "the time has not yet arrived for duly estimating his position and influence." This is "common form." But when does the time arrive? We have had plenty of fragmentary writings about Coleridge and his satellites, including Sterling; but, one by one, the disciples and the intimates pass away, and no attempt is made to present Coleridge truthfully as a man. And the amount of dulness and misapprehension that goes on is surprising. It was but yesterday that Mr. Stirling, the author of the "Secret of Hegel," wrote an article in the *Fortnightly* about Coleridge, which was as hard and wrong-headed as any *plaidoyer* ever paid by the guinea at nisi prius. And so the world goes on. There is, in truth, a singular want of good character-biographies and studies in recent literature, alongside of a profuse supply of material.

The *Fortnightly*, by-the-way, has often broken ground in this direction. The present number contains a study, by Mr. Edward Dowden, of Edgar Quinet, critic, historian, and poet. Neither of these descriptions quite suits the man, but Mr. Dowden gives an admirable idea of his life, his character, and his genius. It is difficult to speak authoritatively upon such matters, but the chief impression, after all, left upon the mind by the study of men like Quinet is one of sadness; a feeling that they are mainly receptive, and will leave but little mark compared with their total labours. Mr. Frederic Harrison is powerful, as usual; but he does not do what he aims at; and his failure is soon accounted for. First, with all his culture, earnestness and skill in fence, he hits out wildly, so that he seems a spectacle as well as a force;—you watch him with more curiosity than his argument. Second, in spite of his fervour and his strong language, you cannot resist a suspicion that he is a kind of political Boethorn. When we feel that the man who threatens to cut off our head and throw our remains to the moles and bats is quite incapable of bloodshed, we don't mind him. Mr. Harrison is serious and sincere, but he batters so loudly on his antagonist's shield and helm that the better-aimed blows seem like part of a "demonstration" rather than of a combat. Mr. William Morris contributes a lovely poem, entitled "The Dark Wood." By-the-way, I am analysing his "Earthly Paradise," and have hit upon some curious results. The Hon. R. Lytton, in a paper entitled "Old Criticisms on Old Plays and Old Playgoers," has disinterred Lichtenberg on Garrick. The result is highly interesting; but not so instructive as Mr. Lytton supposes. And he, Mr. Lytton, is far too solicitous to make "sense" of Hamlet's position. Neither in real life, nor in the drama, nor in the epic, should we expect all the congruities. Assuredly, we don't get 'em! There is an odd misprint. In "Maud" the banished lover on the Breton coast says:—

See what a lovely shell,  
Small and pure as a pearl,  
Made so fairly well,  
A miracle of design.

Mr. Lytton is made to quote it—

Made so fairly well,  
A miracle of design.

Just so. As the cumulative Gaul observed—"It is grand; it is magnifique; it is pretty good."

*Temple Bar* is strong in fiction. Capital is Mrs. Edwardes in "Ought we to Visit Her?" it is the most amusing story going; and Mr. William Gilbert is always good. The late Hon. Emily Eden's "Letters from India" are very lively reading, sometimes particularly happy: e.g.,—"Sunday, Aug. 7, was so hot that nobody could go to morning church. In the evening we went to the Fort Church, which was like a kettle of boiling water; but Mr. — simmered out an excellent sermon while we were stewing." Mr. Pennell's rhymes, "Mayfair on Skates," are very clever. The "padding" is indifferent, as usual—and some of it very bad.

An amusing letter to a contemporary about Mr. Disraeli's parody of Fletcher of Saltoun's saying concerning ballads and laws ends thus:—

The actual words are these:—"I knew a very wise man that believed that if a man were permitted to make all the ballads he need not care who should make the laws of a nation." Did Fletcher of Saltoun call himself a very wise man—even although he knew he was a Scotchman?

Fletcher of Saltoun may not have originated the saying, I do not know—but the above argument is not conclusive. Plenty of writers besides Fletcher have kept a Mrs. Harris of that kind. Bacon did; and very amusingly he sometimes uses her.

#### THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The Strand management was wise, I think, to apply to Mr. Arthur Sketchley for another comedy. In "Up in the World" this versatile author has suited the company admirably, and in it he again shows that rare power of dramatic construction which is possessed by so few of our popular dramatic authors. In my humble opinion, "Up in the World" is altogether a better play than "Living at Ease." The latter was a farce; the former is a true comedy. If Mr. Sketchley had not felt that, to suit a Strand audience, he must subdue his comedy and exaggerate *ad nauseam*; if he were not forced to subdue his common-sense, his knowledge of the world, his rapid appreciation of character, and write up his caroty pages, his ridiculous butlers, and farcical vulgarisms, the new comedy would have been considerably improved. As it is, you can feel that the author is compelled to caricature. In my opinion Miss Bella Goodall, a noisy, caroty, *outré*, exaggerated, and altogether impossible "butler," is the one blot on the piece. But the noisier Miss Goodall is, the more varied her emphasis on wrongly pronounced words, the more she appears to be appreciated. It is the same with Miss Amy Sheridan. She plays a young swell, and looks altogether unlike a young swell, in evening clothes, in a frock-coat, and in a shooting-jacket. Nobody was ever more unlike a young swell. Her clothes fit her badly. She wears a bad wig. She is awkward, ungainly, and an undignified sight. And yet the young swells of London go to see Miss Amy Sheridan as a young swell, not because she acts well or looks well, but because the idea of Miss Amy Sheridan in male attire is altogether ludicrous and preposterous. However, in the comedy in question the serious blots, the Bella Goodalls, the Sheridans, and the Chamberlains, are atoned for by some admirable acting. Thinking over the almost inimitable impersonation of Mr. Harry Paulton as the sneering, old common-sense fellow, who laughs in his sleeve at Dick Muggidge, the potato merchant, aping the airs and graces of Lancaster-gate whilst he is in reality only fit for the Borough; thinking over the excellent representation of a lady and a woman of the world of Miss Jessie Anstiss; admiring, as I cannot fail to admire, the cleverness of Mrs. Raymond as the vulgar old dame; the notion of character exhibited by Mr. Terry as a thin, grasping, swindling lawyer; and thoroughly appreciating the good sense of Mr. Burnett, who plays and dresses the part of a gentleman like a gentleman—thinking over all this, I cannot fail to be struck with the amount of talent the stage possesses which is often turned to ignoble uses.

I do not suppose better acting in its way could be found in any capital in Europe just now than the Uncle Sedley of Mr. Harry Paulton, and yet the stock audience of the Strand infinitely prefers Miss Bella Goodall as an impossible page, and Miss Amy Sheridan as a still more impossible man. There is plenty of cleverness in the Strand company; but the Strand public requires exaggeration, caricature, burlesque, rather than sound art. We have in this comedy a play constructed with singular power, though of well-worn materials; dialogue considerably above the Strand level; acting, in certain characters, of really marked excellence; and yet the people who make the Strand pay are those who cheer Miss Bella Goodall, who split their sides at Miss Sheridan's awkwardness, who yawn over the best comedy bits, disregard the best acting, and only long for the time to come when their feeble intellects will be gratified with perhaps the weakest burlesque on record. I very much fear that those artists at the Strand who deserve most praise for their art are there offering thoroughly unmarketable commodities. To put the point plainer, I mean that Mr. Harry Paulton and Mr. Terry, with their idiotic songs, their dances, their buffoonery, and their childlike in the burlesque, are far more valuable to Mrs. Swanborough than Mr. Harry Paulton and Mr. Terry, the clever artists in the comedy. In the one case they please the people, and in the other the critics. Still, it is a great step in advance to get these capital artists to shake off the trammels of burlesque occasionally, and to show what they really can do. In finishing my notes on the Strand, I should say that Miss Ada Swanborough and Mr. Harry Crouch play very earnestly and ably. They have to make love, and they make love according to their lights. At any rate, they are painstaking and not at all offensive.

Every opportunity appears to have been taken to attempt to persuade the poor public that "Vesta," the new burlesque at the St. James's, is a brilliant and desirable entertainment. If one were to judge by the columns of flattering notices cut from the various papers which appear day by day in the bills, it would be only fair to argue that such a fine and amusing affair as "Vesta" has not yet been presented to the public. It is an utter mistake. The burlesque is as bad as it can be, destitute of any kind of merit, and would be, if it were not for the humour of Mrs. John Wood, an utter and complete failure. If, my friends, you do not believe your friend the Lounge, I would beg you to draw lots and dispatch a miserable victim to see the unfortunate Vesta. I only speak of the young lady from her appearance when I saw her. On that occasion she was sad, emaciated, woe-begone, and I altogether gave her up for lost. There was no fun in her. She was depressed, low, and an undesirable companion. Some nourishing stout may have been applied in the form of a new version—or perhaps the old version—of "The Little Wee Dog;" some isinglass, in the shape of a recent nigger melody; some mock turtle, known otherwise as a breakdown; or some oysters, in the unenviable form of what is faithfully called a "nonsense song." This may be; but I will cordially own that on the second night (to be accurate) I gave up the case of "Vesta" as hopeless. I shall not go again; but I do not think anything could be done to the miserable entertainment to make it worthy of such a theatre as the St. James's. I can only hope that the day will come—and that a not very distant day—when Mrs. John Wood and Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. Young and Mr. Gaston Murray, will think it advisable to turn their talent to a better account than in the depressing—as it was on the second night—entertainment called "Vesta."

Mlle. Déjazet and her troupe have migrated to the CHARIOT-CROSS, where they are playing a programme similar to that at the Opéra Comique; but it appears to go better because the house is better suited to the delicate style of Mlle. Déjazet, and to the miniature acting of the ladies and gentlemen in her company.

In a fortnight we are promised "Joan of Arc" at the QUEEN'S; and Mr. Byron's drama for Mr. Toole is almost ready at the GAIETY.

#### 1ST SURREY RIFLES.

The dramatic entertainment given by the members of the 1st Surrey Rifles at their headquarters, on Tuesday evening, was eminently successful. Mr. Andrew Halliday's Royalty drama, "The Loving Cup," and Messrs. Halliday and Brough's farce, "A Valentine," were the pieces played. Ensign Fourdrier is a gentleman of most versatile talent. His rendering of Mr. Charles Augustus Phipps was undeniably clever. Mr. Danvers was not imitated; the conception was quite original. The barmaids, Lucy Leigh and Lizzie Lattimer, were played by Mrs. Garton and Miss Harvey. Lucy's leave-taking of Ned Thornton was a pretty and pathetic piece of acting. The remaining characters were satisfactorily represented by Lance-Corporal Macklin and Privates Ross, Ruston, and Colven. Mrs. Newbery was the housekeeper. The farce was rattled off right merrily. Farces at amateur performances generally drag; this did not. Ensign Fourdrier was the jealous Toddles. Mrs. Garton was Mary Anne, and Miss Harvey was Matilda Jane. The ladies contributed considerably to the fun of the farce. The small part of Tommy Tit was intelligently acted by Master Ellen. The performance terminated exactly at the specified time.

HOW TO SPREAD SMALLPOX.—A South London union, according to a local newspaper, has achieved the proud distinction of solving the problem how to spread smallpox over the greatest area at the greatest speed. "The vehicle which carries the workhouse bread and wood also performs duty as a smallpox ambulance." The name of the union is not at present mentioned— which is a pity, since the authors of such a masterpiece of skill ought to be brought before the public eye, for the admiration of all men. They intend, we presume, to lighten the rates; and they argue, with great logical power, that the quickest way to accomplish that end is to give the paupers the power of dying quickly and by the score. To infect a pauper with smallpox through the agency of a bread-cart is as cheap as to vaccinate him, and it costs much less trouble. Paupers can then be killed for, say, five shillings a head, the sum that may be handed over to the doctor; but they cannot be fed and clad for less than, perhaps, £15 a year; so, by bringing a regular supply of smallpox to the workhouse, in the bread-van, they save £14 15s. a head. This plan for killing the paupers will, of course, charm Mr. Goshen and delight the House of Commons. Parochial economists will wonder why they themselves had never hit upon so brilliantly Christian an idea.—*Telegraph*.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON ON TIMOROUS ALARMISTS.—In a recent speech Sir Wilfrid remarked:—"If we are to go to war—which God forbid!—let some of these people go themselves who write so finely about it. Now, I should suggest that the Government should charter a ship. I would give the command to Earl Russell, and have it manned with diplomatists who cost us hundreds of thousands a year to keep the peace, and know no more about what is going on than we do ourselves, and who cannot keep us out of war. Then I would have a lot of wireless newspaper editors. Mr. Odger should be a passenger, and I would have a sprinkling of fire-eating Bishops. Well, my ship might go into battle. I should be very sorry indeed if, when they came into close quarters, any of them came to grief; but I should not be sorry if the ship were captured and if they were all retained in some foreign land. They might solace their captivity by singing that old chorus, once sung by some gentlemen who were transported against their will to the East:—

True patriots we; for, be it understood,  
We left our country for our country's good.

You need not my assurance that I am strongly in favour of non-intervention. I was surprised to see the terms in which the party of non-intervention was described the other day by one of the Positivist party, Mr. Frederick Harrison. He described those who are for non-intervention as "palm-swinging fanatics." I don't sing palms, except in church, and then I make a poor hand at it; but I confess I would rather be the lowest and blindest joint in a party formed by Cobden and led by John Bright—a party whose policy has conferred in the past unnumbered blessings on my fellow-countrymen—I would rather be the lowest joint in such a party than the proudest and most admired leader of a party bringing on my fellow-countrymen indescribable villanies and miseries. We have orators and writers who say, "If you wish for peace, prepare for war." What nonsense that is! Look at these nations of the Continent. They have spent their whole time in preparing for war, and the natural consequence is they carry on war. What would you think if you saw a set of boys being trained to the utmost perfection in cricket, and you were told that they were being trained in cricket so that they might never play a match? Why, it is absurd."

#### MUSIC.

The musical event of the week has been the production of Cimarosa's "Il Matrimonio Segreto," at the Lyceum. Years ago this opera was played both at Covent Garden and in the Haymarket; artists no less distinguished than Alboni and Lablache sometimes taking part. Its construction, however, is too much that of an opera di camera for large houses, no chorus being employed, while the concerted music is limited to six voices. At the Italian Opera Buffa "Il Matrimonio" is in its right place. The stage and surroundings are not too large, and every part of the music makes its intended effect, instead of being lost in space. Secret marriage has often supplied a basis for dramatic stories; and all sorts of incidents have been piled upon it, with, of course, the same result—perfect happiness all round. "Il Matrimonio" shows us a vulgar old merchant who wishes to have a nobleman for a son-in-law, and who gladly entertains the proposals made by Count Robinson (a name betraying the English origin of the story) for the hand of his elder daughter. On closer acquaintance, Count Robinson transfers his affections to the younger, but she is the wife, all "unknown," of Paulino, and therefore rejects her noble lover's suit, without being able to assign the true reason. Considerable mystification ensues; in the end, however, the secret marriage is found out, and the old man appropriately shocked. But the convenient Count Robinson re-transfers his affections to the unwedded sister, which satisfies her parent, who forgives everybody, and the curtain then descends upon a happy family. The music by which this story is illustrated possesses great and genuine charm. Suggestive of Mozart in its character and treatment, it is almost equal to Mozart in the beauty of its subjects and the dramatic effect produced by means apparently simple. Fortunate at the outset (the Viennese amateurs of 1792 went wild about it), "Il Matrimonio" has since maintained a proud position on the lyric stage, and nobody can say that luck in this case is undeserved. Tuesday's performance was, on the whole, one of merit. Mlle. Colomba (C.olina) sang with spirit and effect; ably supported, as regards the music, by Mlle. Brusa (Elisetta). Both ladies, however, failed in giving character to their parts, the numerous chances for a good actress to "bring down the house" being almost wholly overlooked. Mlle. Bedetti (Fidalma), on the other hand, lost no opportunity, while she sang like a genuine artist. Signor Fabbri was tame as Paulino; Signor Rocca sang well as the Count; and, in the part of the old merchant, Geronimo, Signor Borella made a success which lifts him still higher in the estimation of those who have been long looking for a real Italian buffo, as distinguished from an Italian who merely grimaces and shouts. The performance was directed by Signor Bottesini.

The programme of last Saturday's concert at the Crystal Palace had an average attraction for lovers of orchestral music. Among the works included were Spohr's symphony "The Power of Sound," Beethoven's overture to "King Stephen," Weber's overture to "Euryanthe," and two movements from a symphony by Mr. Henry Gadsby, a clever English composer, previously known to amateurs through other meritorious works. Judging from the larghetto and scherzo, played on this occasion, Mr. Gadsby is essentially of the modern school of musical thought. His processes are elaborate, his aim is lofty, and the result is effective, if not always intelligible at first sight. We fear that Mr. Gadsby is an idealist, and writes to a programme, if not of incident, at least of mental processes. This may well be; but, for our own part, we should prefer to separate music from metaphysics. The vocalists at this concert were Madame Cora Wilhorst and Mr. Sims Reeves, of whom the first sang two operatic selections so as to make a very favourable debut. Mr. Reeves gave—how, we need not say—the opening air from "Elijah," and Molique's serenade, "When the moon is brightly shining."

The last Monday Popular Concert was distinguished by the return of Herr Joseph Joachim, who had such a welcome as rarely falls to any artist. Nothing can be greater than the ascendancy of this gentleman over the St. James's Hall audience. Till he comes the concerts are considered incomplete, no matter who occupies his place; and when he comes everybody settles down for the treat in store, with entire confidence about the result. So, on Monday, a great crowd of amateurs received their favourite with that keen appreciation of good things to come which was the highest compliment in their power to bestow. Herr Joachim played as his solo the chaconne of Sebastian Bach, often used by him to astonish the Monday Popular audience. To say that he played it well is to use a cold and inadequate term. He played it marvellously. The concerted pieces were Mendelssohn's quintet in B flat (op. 87) and Schubert's quintet in A major (op. 114)—two very different works, whether regarded for their character, or their completeness as artistic things. Madame Schumann again appeared as solo pianist, and obtained an encore for her exceedingly vigorous delivery of Mendelssohn's scherzo à capriccio. The vocalist was Miss Enriquez, who should know better than to go wrong in Schubert's songs.

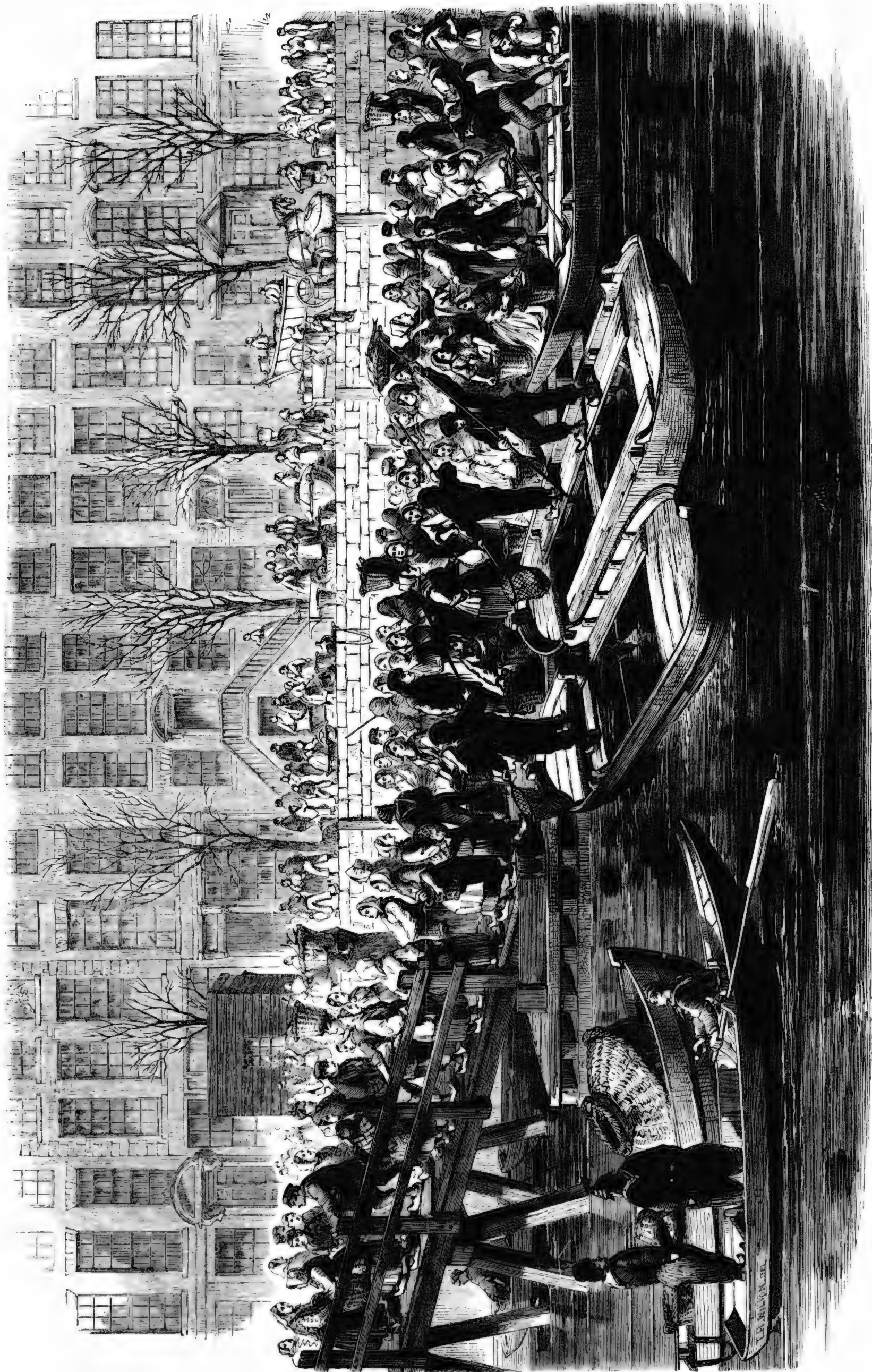
On Tuesday, at St. James's Hall, Mr. J. F. Barnett's "Paradise and the Peri" was given for the first time in London. Written for Birmingham, it was performed at the festival in September last, and noticed in these columns at the time. The opinion then expressed must remain intact, since we can neither take from nor add to it. Mr. Barnett's latest effort is by no means an improvement upon his "Ancient Mariner." A succession of short, undeveloped themes, treated in the plainest style, it wants—to say nothing of genius—those qualities which even cleverness could give it. But Mr. Barnett is unquestionably clever. How, then, can his failure be explained? The soloists engaged—Madame Vanzini, Madame Patey, Mr. Rigby, and Mr. Thomas—did their best, and were supported by a good orchestra and chorus; but nothing could arouse the interest of the audience.

The Oratorio Concerts began for the season on Wednesday, in St. James's Hall, leading off with an excellent performance of Bach's "Passions-Musik," according to St. Matthew. This grand work was in the programme of last year, and we drew the particular attention of our readers to claims which were more than ever apparent at the second performance. Let us hope that the managers will go on repeating grand old Sebastian's music till the English public learn to appraise it at its worth. Madame Rudersdorff, Madame Patey, Mr. Cummings, and Herr Stockhausen were the principals, all doing well, but especially Mr. Cummings, upon whom fell the lion's share of work. His delivery of the many and trying recitatives was irreproachable. Another great feature was presented by the chorales, which were sung to absolute perfection. Nor did the orchestra lag behind in the race of merit. Briefly, the entire performance was a success, and augured well for the remainder of the season.

LORD ST. LEONARDS.—In spite of the repeated false rumours of the death of Lord St. Leonards which have been spread from time to time, his Lordship completed his ninetieth year on Sunday last, having been born in the parish of St. James, Piccadilly, on Feb. 12, 1781. Lord St. Leonards has been the "Father" of the House of Peers ever since the death of Lord Onslow, in October last; and it is probable, as he was called to the Bar some sixty-four years ago, that he is also the "Father" of the legal profession. Be this, however, as it may, he still enjoys the use of all his faculties, and it is said that he continues to read, mark, and digest regularly the reports of all the important cases which come before the Law Courts, and to annotate them with marginal notes of his own, his handwriting being as firm and regular as ever.

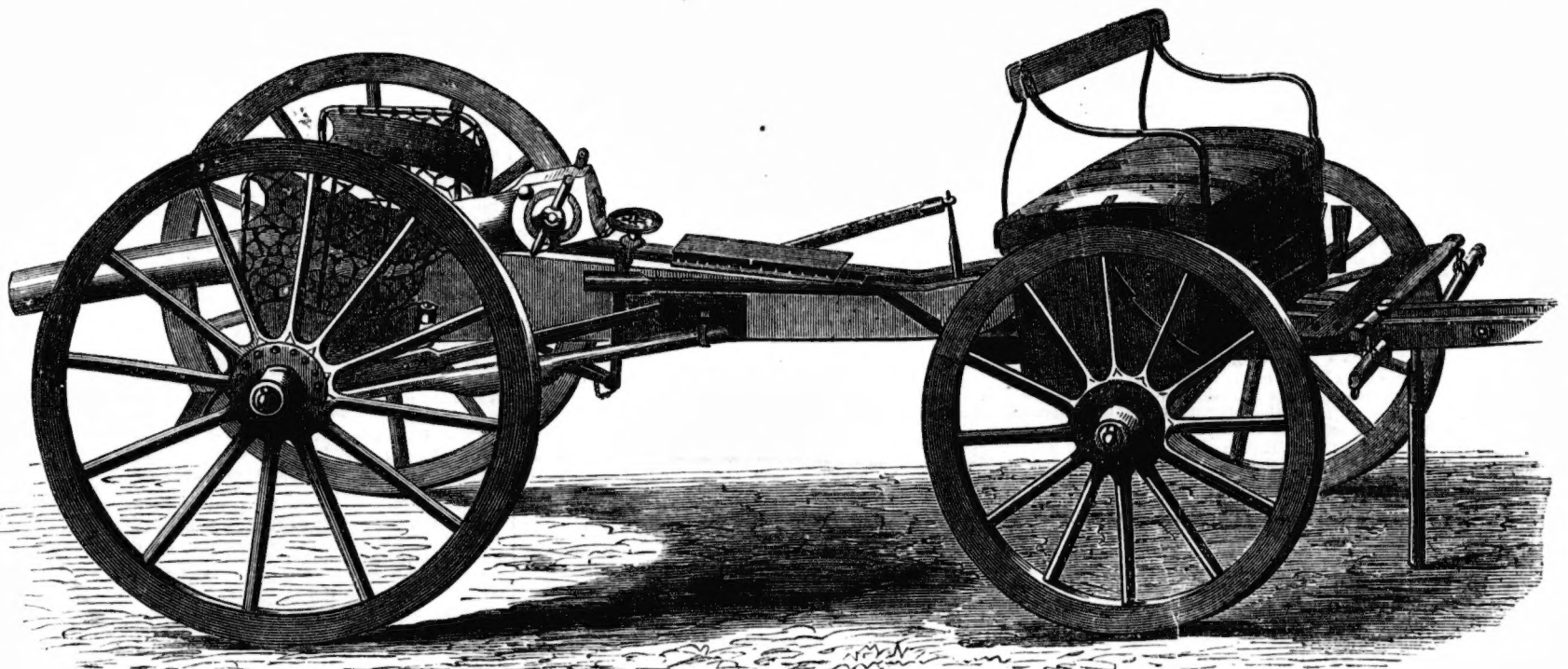
LONDON INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1871.—Her Majesty's Commissioners have sent letters of invitation to the following musical composers of European celebrity, requesting them each to compose a suitable piece of music for the opening on May 1—namely, M. Gounod, Herr Wagner, Signor Verdi, and Mr. Arthur Sullivan. Mr. I. C. Buckmaster has been appointed by her Majesty's Commissioners to deliver an address on the value of the Exhibition and its bearing on industrial instruction, designed particularly for the working classes, in all the large towns of the country which express a desire to have it. During the week ending Feb. 11, the objects—consisting of machinery, scientific inventions, objects for education, earthenware, porcelain, and terra-cotta—were delivered in great quantities on the respective days appointed. A detachment of Royal Engineers, as in former international exhibitions, has been employed in receiving the objects.





PROVISIONING OF PARIS: THE FISH MARKET AT AMSTERDAM.





PRUSSIAN FOUR-POUNDER FIELD-GUN.

### THE SUPPLY OF PROVISIONS FOR PARIS.

THE arrangements for the transit of the Government provisions sent to Paris by the Admiralty have been pushed forward with much speed and tact. The provisions despatched from Dieppe to Paris from the 2nd to the 10th inst. inclusive were as follow:—

Flour .. ..	2272 tons.	Grain .. ..	270 tons.
Meat (Preserved) ..	778 "	Sugar and Coffee ..	113 "
Rice .. ..	265 "	Salt Fish .. ..	610 "
Various Vegetables ..	49 "	Fresh Fish .. ..	90 "
Potatoes .. ..	301 "	Various .. ..	211 "
Fuel .. ..	999 "	Sheep .. ..	4777 head.
Butter .. ..	56 "	Oxen .. ..	198 "
Biscuit .. ..	1051 "	Pigs .. ..	191 "

Since the 10th, trains have left, and will leave, at the rate of 150 waggons a day, carrying 1000 tons gross weight.

The order in which the provisions are sent forward is as follows:—Flour, meat (preserved), live stock, pressed hay, coal, wheat, oats. Rice, salt, sugar, and coffee are not to be forwarded.

At Dieppe the quays by the basin admit of 1200 tons a day being discharged from ships, so that there is a gradual accumulation at the station, and Dieppe has enough to occupy it for some time. The agents of the bureaux say that 120 vessels were chartered by the Bureau of Commerce and seventy-four by that of War. The English contribution of three shiploads looked small by the side of their preparations; but, as a pledge of interest and goodwill, it was accepted with very great pleasure. There were at the same time five other shiploads at Havre about which there seemed to be a difficulty. Havre is not one of the revictualling ports named in the Armistice Convention. The Germans, according to one of our correspondents, do not offer direct impediments,

but simply make everything give way to their convenience, and shunt all trains which interfere with their own. So many bridges are broken on the direct line from Rouen to Paris that the trains go round by Amiens, and even on that line, when they reach the bridge of Creil, all trains are taken to pieces and sent over the flying bridge by five waggons at a time. All waggons of provisions sent by our Government are labelled, "Don du Gouvernement de S. M. Britannique à la Ville de Paris," and are handed over to Mr. Blount to deliver to the town authorities.

It is announced from Paris that, in consequence of the large arrival of provisions from England, some bankers who had undertaken important contracts for the revictualling of the city have determined to relinquish any pecuniary advantages which they might derive from those contracts. The French papers say that 7,000,000*fr.* will thus be saved to the treasury. Trains of pro-

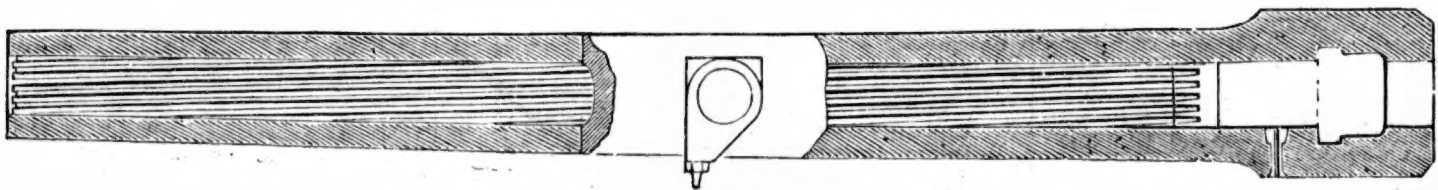


FIG. 1. SECTION OF BARREL.

visions were arriving in such large numbers that the help of the soldiers was required to unload them.

A correspondent in Paris, writing on Monday, says that bread can now be obtained without any restriction; that large quantities of meat and vegetables are for sale in the markets; and that in the better class of restaurants there is abundance of game, poultry, and fish. So wonderful have been the facilities for revictualling afforded by the railways that, between the 3rd and 10th inst., 9600 tons of flour, 450 tons of rice, and 900 tons of biscuit were sent into Paris, together with 360 tons of fish, 3700 tons of fuel, and nearly 7000 head of live stock. Since then a steady supply of provisions from Belgium and the French provinces had been pouring in. The people were already getting used to the change, and were becoming anxious rather to have money to purchase than that there should be something to buy.

Amongst those who have been active in supplying provisions to the French capital are the Dutch fishermen, who have brought large quantities of fish to the market at Amsterdam, whence they were dispatched, via Belgium, to Paris.

Up to Wednesday evening the Mansion House fund for the relief of the distress in and around Paris, and generally throughout the districts ravaged by the war, amounted to £90,500, of which upwards of £3800 was received on that day. It is probable, therefore, that the fund now exceeds £100,000.

### PRUSSIAN FIELD ARTILLERY.

AFTER the controversies which have been going on between professional authorities on the question of breech and muzzle loading field artillery, we have not sufficient courage to enter into any disquisition on so vexed a subject. The Engraving which we are able to publish this week may, however, help to convey some information on the actual facts, since it represents the lighter artillery actually in use by the Prussian forces—that is to say, the 4-pounders and 6-pounders adapted to field operations, and turned out of the great Krupp factory as the most complete examples of modern guns. The body of the piece is, of course, of the finest cast steel; the weight is about 6 cwt.; the bore is 3 in. in diameter and is rifled with twelve spiral grooves. The breech-chamber—which is, of course, smooth—is wider than the barrel, so that the conical missile, which is fitted with a leaden-ribbed coating, may be received along with its powder-cartridge and may be forced through the barrel, the leaden ribs taking the course of the rifled grooves, so that the projectile acquires a rotary motion in its flight. In this particular construction of missile and barrel consists the characteristic of these guns as distinguished from the muzzle-loading pieces. The Engraving (Fig. 1) represents a section of the entire length of the barrel with its rifling, with the exception of the space in the centre, which is shown in "elevation" instead of "in section," that our readers may see where the "trunnion" comes in the piece.

Our smaller illustrations (Fig. 2) show the external appearance of the conical projectile, with its iron bands, or ribs; and the longitudinal section of the same projectile, with its chamber containing the explosive charge and the action of the percussion bolt which ignites it on its striking the object against which it is directed. Fig. 3 represents a horizontal section of the breech apparatus and chamber. To understand it the reader must suppose himself to be looking down upon the chamber just

as he looks down upon the Engraving, so that the handle (c) will be on his left hand, just as it appears on the larger illustration. This handle communicates with a screw which, when tightened, keeps the wedges (a and b) in their place, closing the breech; but when unscrewed, and the screw and stop drawn out, these wedges fall into slots, and the opening at f f admits the charge, which is pushed forward into the chamber at g. With these few explanations, our readers may gain some idea of the action of this new field artillery as used in the Prussian army.

### THE VOYSEY APPEAL CASE.

THE Judicial Committee last Saturday pronounced judgment in this long-pending appeal of the Rev. Charles Voysey, Vicar of Haulaugh, near Tadcaster, Yorkshire, against a decree of the Chancery Court of York, admitting certain articles charging him

with having the universal divinity infused through him." There were further charges for excluding him from his office of a clergyman in the Church of England. Mr. Voysey had alleged that the worship of Jesus Christ was idolatry, and the Incarnation an idolatry.

The committee consisted of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Chelmsford, and Sir Robert Phillimore, who heard the case with the Archbishop of Canterbury (now absent on the Continent). Besides their Lordships, Sir James Colville, Sir J. Napier, and Sir L. Peel were present. There were also several ladies present, accommodated with seats, and there was a good attendance of the public, but not a great crowd.

The Lord Chancellor, in giving judgment, recapitulated the facts of the case as to the proceedings at York, and the appeal to her Majesty in Council, when it was agreed that the whole case should be heard. His Lordship then referred to the several charges in the articles. The charges were contained in thirteen articles, the rest being of a formal character. The charges might be classified under three heads:—1, the alleged errors as to the reconciliation for sin by Christ; 2, alleged errors as to the Godhead of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Trinity; and, 3, the authority of the Holy Scriptures. He (the Lord Chancellor), before he discussed those charges, would state the law as laid down in the case of "The Essays and Reviews," in which Lord Westbury gave the opinion of their Lordships. After reading an extract from that judgment, his Lordship proceeded to refer to the passages in "The Sling and the Stone" which were cited in support of the charges. He also referred to the several articles of religion which it was alleged Mr. Voysey had offended against by his writings. His Lordship then took the first head, as to the atonement and sacrifice for sin, which Mr. Voysey denied; but their Lordships held that he had offended against the Articles of Religion, and therefore the charge on that head was established. He then proceeded to consider the second head, as to whether the alleged Divinity of Christ and the Holy Trinity, the Incarnation, and the worship of the Trinity were idolatry. He (the Lord Chancellor) contrasted the Articles of Religion with the teaching of Mr. Voysey on the subject, and read extracts from "The Sling and the Stone" to show that the Articles had been contravened. His Lordship then discussed the other head—the authority of Holy Scripture—and read an extract from Lord Westbury's judgment in "The Essays and Reviews," as to the ecclesiastical law on the subject. On one point the charge was not made out as to the Scriptures. Their Lordships had no doubt the charges were established; and, referring to the great mysteries of our religion and the latitude allowed, their Lordships held that the charges had been proved, and that their Lordships would admit the articles. The sentence they should recommend to her Majesty would be one of deprivation of his living and costs. His Lordship said Mr. Voysey had, on this hearing, declined to retract; but another opportunity would be given him, as he was absent, to retract within a week from this time.

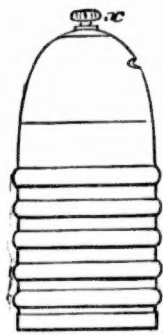


FIG. 2. THE CONICAL MISSILE.

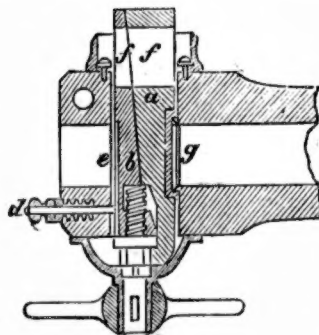


FIG. 3. THE BREECH APPARATUS AND CHAMBER.

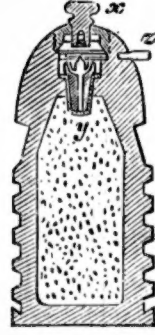


FIG. 4. SECTION OF THE MISSILE.

with publishing and promulgating alleged heretical doctrines, contrary to the law of the Church of England, in a work entitled "The Sling and the Stone." Letters of request were granted by the Archbishop of York, and the case came before the Committee on an interlocutory decree, but it was arranged that the entire case should be heard. The appellant appeared in person, and read a long printed volume of his defence, which occupied several days. On the original hearing, in November, the Committee consisted of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, Sir J. Colville, Sir J. Napier, and Sir R. Phillimore. The counsel for Mr. Noble, the promoter, were the Solicitor-General, Sir Roundell Palmer, Dr. Tristram, Mr. Archibald, and Mr. Cowie. During the hearing Mr. Voysey declined to retract the doctrines he had preached and published. The charges were set forth in thirty-eight articles. The judgment of the Chancery Court of York was given in December, 1869. The charges, as stated by the Judge of that Court, were that "Jesus Christ had not made any atonement or reconciliation for sin; that He had not made any sacrifice, and there was no need of any sacrifice; that Jesus Christ did not suffer in our stead, and to suppose that He did so suffer was a revolting popular belief." Further, that "Jesus Christ is no more very God than we are ourselves; that every man is in the same con-

### OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING THE WAR AND THE TREATY OF 1856.

THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR. ADDITIONAL correspondence respecting the war between France and Germany, in continuation of that issued on July 29, 1870, has



just been laid before Parliament. The correspondence forms a goodly volume of 269 pages, and, commencing in date at the beginning of August, is brought down to the day on which the armistice was signed at Versailles; the text of that document being included among the papers published. Many of the despatches have already been given to the world. Many, however, appear for the first time, and place in a clear light the policy which has been pursued by the British Government throughout the war.

At the time when the earlier despatches in this collection were written the surrender at Sedan had not yet occurred, and the Empire was still erect. But the French arms had already met with such reverses that the fall of the Imperial system seemed probable. Writing from Paris on Aug. 12, Lord Lyons said:—

The hopes of a French victory appear to grow among the people, but this will only render a disappointment of them more bitter and more dangerous. The universal feeling is that a defeat would be absolutely and immediately fatal to the dynasty. On the consequences of a victory opinions are divided, and it is by no means considered certain that even the success of the army in the field would now suffice to avert a revolution.

At this early stage of the conflict there was no thought of yielding. In a conversation which Lord Lyons had with Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne, four days later, the latter said that there were two conditions which must, under all circumstances, be observed—namely, "the preservation of the integrity of the territory of France and the maintenance of the dynasty." Even then, however, the readiness of the British Government to mediate between the belligerents was openly proclaimed. Lord Granville, in a letter to Lord Lyons, dated Aug. 17, said that her Majesty's Government had certainly no intention or desire to obtrude their mediation either on France or Prussia; but Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne might be assured that if at any time recourse should be had to their good offices, they would be "freely given and zealously exerted for the restoration of peace between her Majesty's allies." The French Government did not, however, consider that the time for such action had arrived. Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne said that just then "France could not with propriety—or, indeed, honour—accept any mediation. It had been insinuated that she was endeavouring to induce Austria or Italy to come to her assistance. This was entirely untrue. The present conjuncture was one in which any appeal for material foreign aid would be peculiarly inopportune and undignified." That any offer of mediation must of necessity be premature just then was an opinion which was held elsewhere than in France. Count Beust, as far back as Aug. 11, said that if fortune continued to favour Prussia as it had hitherto favoured her he apprehended there could be no expectation of peace negotiations "until the German armies were under the walls of Paris." Prince Gortschakoff was also of opinion that no offer of mediation would be acceptable to either belligerent, and that if made would do more harm than good. The surrender of the Emperor Napoleon to the King of Prussia soon came, and immediately after that event Lord Granville wrote to Lord Lyons, under date of Sept. 5—

Her Majesty's Government are in possession of your Excellency's telegraphic communications announcing the grave events that have occurred in Paris since the surrender of the Emperor Napoleon to the King of Prussia, and I have to instruct you to remain at your post as long as any of the Corps Diplomatique are able to do so, with a view to protect as efficiently as possible the interests and the property of her Majesty's subjects residing in France. You will, to that effect, communicate with any *de facto* Government (but without any formal acknowledgment of such) that may hold power for the time being, until you receive further instructions from me. In the event of her Majesty the Empress deciding to retire from Paris, with a view to maintaining the Imperial Government with even a mere shadow of power, you will under no circumstance follow her Majesty, but you will do everything in your power that may contribute to her Majesty's safety and comfort if called upon to offer your advice and assistance.

Directly after the overthrow of the Imperial Government and the establishment of the Government of National Defence, M. Jules Favre stated to Lord Lyons that France would certainly agree to an armistice if a neutral Power were to propose it, and that he should be glad if an offer of mediation on the basis of the integrity of the French territory should be made to Prussia, even though it might be rejected by her. Earl Granville, in reply, said that, although her Majesty's Government felt that they would be more likely to do more harm than good if they attempted to mediate unless they had reason to believe that both parties would receive their mediation, they would be happy to be the channel of communication between the belligerents with a view to peace, as they already had been in minor matters. On Sept. 13 M. Thiers arrived in London on his mission, and Earl Granville, who at once called on him, thus relates in a despatch to Lord Lyons what passed at the interview:—

Foreign Office, Sept. 13, 1870.

M. Thiers arrived in London this morning. I called on him by appointment at twelve o'clock. He said it was the desire of the Ministers to conclude an honourable peace; and for this purpose, at great inconvenience and with reluctance, but pressed, not only by the Government but by all his Conservative and Liberal friends, he had undertaken to come first to this country and then to go to St. Petersburg and Vienna. He asked for no forcible intervention, but he appealed to England to exert her moral influence to obtain peace. It could not be for the interest of this country to abdicate her position as a great Power. Although an island and a maritime Power, she belonged to Europe. In former times she had shown the interest she took in the balance of power. She had shown the world what colonies and sailors she could send out. She could not wish to see France—who for forty years had been her ally, who had fought by her side in the Crimea, who in times such as the Indian mutiny had taken no advantage of her difficulties—humiliated and weakened. It was not for the interest of England that a dishonourable peace should be patched up, which would leave France weak and irritable, unable to assist us, but ready for every occasion to recover her lost prestige. If England would only take the lead, all neutral nations would follow, and it would be impossible for Prussia to withstand the moral force of such public opinion in favour of humanity and the balance of European power. M. Thiers was much fatigued, so I shortly recounted what had been our course. We had done all in our power to obtain peace; we went beyond what we had a right to do in urging Spain to abandon a candidate whom she had a right fully to choose. We succeeded in removing the ground of quarrel; but the French Government had not been satisfied, had left us on one side, and had hastened to declare hostilities. We declared to Parliament (and our declaration was approved) that we intended to maintain a strict neutrality, and to endeavour to keep up friendly relations with both countries. From the first we told all who pressed us that it was not our intention to offer ourselves as mediators, unless we had reason to believe that mediation would be acceptable to both parties, and that there seemed to be a basis on which both belligerents would agree to negotiate; that by all we could learn such a state of things had not arisen. We had some conversation as to the advantage of M. Favre going to headquarters. I thought it would be of use, and M. Thiers was of opinion that M. Favre would not refuse to go.

In another interview M. Thiers suggested the immediate recognition of the Republic. Earl Granville replied, to quote his own words:—

I said it would be contrary to precedent to do so at present; that I wished to be in the most friendly relations with the Government, and that the best proof of our being so was our present conversation; but that Government had no legal sanction that it called itself a Government only for a special object; and that it had announced the summoning of a Constituent Assembly, which would decide on the future Government of France. That I believed her Majesty's Government would advise the Queen to acknowledge the Government as soon as the nation had formally recognised it, but till then all practical ends in a time of crisis would be obtained by the good existing relations.

M. Thiers appears to have been very well satisfied with the cordial reception he met with from Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville, and with the result of his mission to England.

One of the results of M. Thiers's visit to London was the interview which shortly afterwards took place at Ferrières between M. Jules Favre and Count Bismarck with a view to bring about an armistice, and the election of a National Assembly to decide upon the question of peace or war. When, however, the Count asked, as one of the conditions, the surrender of the garrison of Strasbourg as prisoners of war, M. Favre says he started with pain and cried—"You forget you are speaking to a Frenchman, M. le Comte. To sacrifice a heroic garrison, which is our admiration and the world's, would be an act of cowardice, and I do not promise that I will say you have offered me such a condition." As is

well known, the interview led to nothing. So far from showing any disposition of giving way, the Government of the National Defence made the famous declaration at this time, in which it proclaimed its policy to be to yield not an inch of territory nor a stone of a fortress; and officially stated, on Sept. 20, that it would maintain this policy to the last.

Shortly after the interview at Ferrières, a formal application for the intervention of Great Britain as a neutral Power was made by M. Jules Favre. To this application Earl Granville made the following reply, dated Oct. 4:—

Her Majesty's Government deeply regret to see France oppressed with great misfortunes. They behold with profound concern that a great nation—their nearest neighbour—with whom they have been long in friendly alliance that has been daily strengthened by continually increasing intercourse, and with whom they have co-operated in peace and war for interests common to both, should be weakened by such disasters as those by which she is now oppressed. They would gladly do anything consistent with their duty to their own country to obtain for France a permanent peace, which, in the circumstances of the war, the French Government could with honour accept; but they would not be acting a friendly part if they did not fully state their views to the Provisional Government. The object of the Provisional Government appears, from the present application, to be that the neutral Powers should, if needful, support by force any representations they might make to Prussia. Her Majesty's Government are bound to state explicitly that they are not themselves prepared to adopt any such course, or to propose it to other neutral Powers. They can only anxiously await the moment when some prospect may appear of bringing to a conclusion the sad conflict by the wisdom, the moral courage, and the moderation of the belligerents, or by an opportunity presenting itself for the exercise by neutral Powers of their influence for the restoration of peace.

A little later—viz., on Oct. 11, Earl Granville stated, in a despatch to Lord Lyons, that her Majesty's Government was of opinion that the rigid adherence by M. Favre to the conditions of yielding "no inch of territory nor stone of a fortress" was a great obstacle to peace. The Government of the United States had previously expressed the same opinion when asked to mediate with the European Governments.

On Oct. 16 the state of affairs seemed so critical that Lord Granville wrote as follows to our Ambassador at St. Petersburg:—

There is some reason to suppose that the Provisional Government of France would agree to Metz and Strasbourg being razed; and the question suggests itself whether Germany will insist upon obtaining from France, as the price of peace, the concessions that she has already demanded. I should wish your Excellency confidentially to inquire of Prince Gortschakoff whether in his opinion it would be possible for England and Russia to come, generally, to an understanding between themselves as to the terms on which peace might be made; and, if his answer should be in the affirmative on that point, you would further ask him whether he considers there would be any possibility of putting a stop to the siege of Paris, if England and Russia, jointly with other neutral Powers, should make an appeal to the humanity of the King of Prussia on the one hand, and recommend moderation to the French Government on the other. As this is of great importance, I have already conveyed to you by telegraph the substance of this instruction.

Prince Gortschakoff, however, did not think that any agreement between the neutral Powers would prove of practical utility. He feared, too, it would be in vain to recommend moderation to France, as he had just learnt that "the terms of the armistice negotiated by General Burnside at the Prussian headquarters, which that officer considered reasonable, had been rejected by M. Jules Favre." Negotiations were, however, again entered into with a view to an armistice and the convocation of a National Assembly; but the re-victimisation of Paris was an obstacle that stood in the way, and M. Thiers, who conducted the negotiations for the Paris Government, had orders to break them off and leave Versailles. Earl Granville, in a despatch dated Nov. 12, thus comments upon the rupture of the negotiations:—

Count Bernstorff read to me to-day the project of armistice which M. Thiers had proposed to Count Bismarck. I told his Excellency I was not competent, and had no desire, to give any opinion as to the fairness or the reverse of the proposal, but that the impression I held, with many others, was that both parties had been extreme in their demands, and that a compromise might have been agreed to.

On the same day Earl Granville also wrote as follows to Lord Lyons:—

Count Bernstorff told me to-day that he had been directed by Count Bismarck to inform me that, although the proposals made by M. Thiers were unacceptable, yet, if the Provisional Government are sincerely desirous of an armistice and of the convocation of an Assembly, a renewed direct communication between the Provisional Government and the Prussian headquarters would be welcomed at Versailles. The Prussian Government were still willing to allow elections without an armistice. Count Bernstorff added that, if the Provisional Government were in earnest, it would be much better on their part to make direct communication to the headquarters at Versailles. I answered that, if I might use the expression without offence, it appeared strange on the part of a great country like Germany, in the plenitude of its power and success, to be so sensitive as to the friendly action of any other Power; that I could repeat my assurances that her Majesty's Government had no *animus* *propre* in the matter; that we had no wish to put ourselves forward unnecessarily; that we did wish for peace, and should equally rejoice at it, by whatever means it was promoted; that we should rejoice at such conclusion, whether it was brought about directly or indirectly by any friendly Power, and that it would have given us great satisfaction if an individual like General Burnside had succeeded. Count Bernstorff assured me that there was no sensitiveness on the part of his Government, but that Count Bismarck believed that these communications only encouraged the French Government to believe that they could rely on the neutral Powers, and thus prolong their resistance. I answered, the French Government complained of the want of encouragement from us, and that the dead-lock seemed to be created by the Germans declining to make advances, while the French, from feeling possibly incensed by the defeats which they have suffered, were at the least equally indisposed to take first steps.

One of the later despatches in the collection is from Earl Granville to Mr. Odo Russell, and is dated as recently as Jan. 9. It is as follows:—

I have had two conversations recently with Count Bernstorff on the subject of the war, in which he asked my opinion as to whether the fall of Paris would put an end to the war. I answered that I was not competent to judge; that the surprises of the war had been so great that it was difficult to foresee what would now happen; that my original impression had been that, as Paris and France were each separately much encouraged by belief in the other, the capitulation or capture of Paris would lead to an early peace; that I found, however, that this impression was not shared by Lord Lyons, who was of opinion that continued resistance would be the result. I added that, if Germany was unable to conclude the war at once, obtaining her own terms of peace, she would regret the persistent way in which she had shown her objection to make use of or to allow of the friendly offices of the neutral Powers. I quite understood that, being successful in a great war of which she had to bear all the brunt and all the sacrifices, she had determined not to be dictated to by those who had stood aloof. It was probably the same feeling which had prevented the Imperial Government from consenting to any mediation. The Republican Government had made different appeals to us, to which we had invariably answered that we could not interfere unless our mediation or advice would be acceptable to both parties, and would be likely to be effective. If the war was continued, if France became totally disorganised, a curse to herself and to Europe, incapable of indemnifying Germany for the costs of the war, and Germany had no resource but to seize and occupy vast territories, filled with unwilling inhabitants, blame would attach to her for having rejected, not the intervention, but the good offices, of some of the neutral Powers, of a character which had so often led to satisfactory results in international disputes.

In a subsequent despatch Earl Granville explains on what grounds the Government still refused to formally recognise the Government of National Defence. He says, writing on Jan. 20:—

It is fully admitted that France, by her heroic and patriotic co-operation with the Government of National Defence, has fully recognised that Government in the capacity which it has claimed for itself by the name it has adopted. Her Majesty's Government, however, are not satisfied that it would be for the interest of France herself at the present moment, as regards foreign Powers, to comply with the request for recognition on the part of England; but such a measure on their part would seem to prejudice the ultimate decision of the French nation, and admit of the construction that it carried with it an intimation on the part of England that she would view with special favour one particular form of government. But it is the ruling principle of this country scrupulously to abstain from interfering in the internal affairs of foreign nations, and from indicating a preference as to the particular form of government to which the nation would do best to confide its interests.

#### THE BLACK SEA QUESTION.

The official correspondence respecting the Treaty of 1856 consists of 195 pages, and contains no fewer than 200 despatches.

Many of these, however, relate exclusively to the earlier stage of the negotiations that succeeded the declaration of the Russian Government, and, referring as they do to the preliminary steps taken with a view to the assembly of a Conference, possess but little interest now that the Conference has met, and that the subject in dispute may be supposed to be in the course of settlement. The difficulties that arose in connection with the attendance of a representative of France seemed at one time on the point of being overcome; but they afterwards reappeared in a fresh shape, and, as the public is aware, the Conference has met without any representative of France being present. In a note to Mr. Odo Russell, dated Jan. 15, Earl Granville says that the difficulty which had been raised both at Versailles and at Paris with regard to a safe conduct for M. Favre was substantially a matter of form, and that either party, "if desirous of doing so," might easily have overcome it. Earl Granville had previously stated that her Majesty's Government considered it of importance that the Provisional Government should be represented at the Conference; and that France should show that even at a time of temporary defeat she had not lost interest in questions of European interest, particularly in one in which she was so closely concerned. "I should not," he adds, "have consented to enter the Conference until France had been invited to attend." Earl Granville refused, however, to allow the question of peace or war to be formally brought before the Conference, as the French Government wished; but at the same time stated that, if the plenipotentiary of France at the end of the proceedings, or of one of the sittings, thought fit to introduce that question, he would not be interfered with. Another statement made by Lord Granville claims attention. When, on Nov. 9, Baron Brunnow handed to the Foreign Minister a circular explaining the reasons why the Emperor of Russia no longer considered himself bound by the special convention limiting the naval forces of Russia in the Black Sea, Earl Granville declined, owing to the importance and suddenness of the communication, to make any reply at the time, and justified this course on the ground that "her Majesty's Government were determined to measure their words on all questions involving international difficulties, so that there might not be the slightest chance of their going beyond that to which they intended strictly to adhere."

"GAMBON OF THE COW."—Amongst the candidates for the Seine et Oise is M. Gambon, a disciple of the Red school, and of the deepest colour. M. Gambon is a landed proprietor, whose patriotism developed itself suddenly some two years ago by a point-blank refusal to pay the property tax. The amount was 5*l*. Like Hampden, he repudiated the impost on principle. His point of departure was that all taxes ought to be abolished; that to decree them was tyranny, to pay them was weakness. The authorities were of a different opinion, and, as he persisted in his refusal, they laid fiscal hands upon a cow of his, and sold it to pay the tax and to cover the expenses of litigation. The Socialists immediately took him into high favour; held him up as a martyr; subscribed to purchase him a brand new cow, and have ever since pointed to him as an example. The Parisians—who laugh at, and contrive to get fun out of everything—invented a phrase which, whilst commemorating the incident, designates its absurdity. *C'est de la vache à Gambon* has now passed into a proverb, to intimate that such or such a matter is as ridiculous as the affair of Gambon's cow. The worthy individual was further enrolled by the wags, who at once christened him Gambon de la Vache. A turn of the political wheel lifts Gambon of the Cow into the rank of candidate for a seat in the Assembly, where he will be expected to raise his eloquent voice against taxation in general, but of cows in particular.—*Letter from Paris.*

DR. LIVINGSTONE.—At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, on Monday night, in the great hall of the University of London, Sir Henry Rawlinson, who presided, read extracts from a letter which had been received at the Foreign Office from Mr. Churchill, the English political agent at Zanzibar. Mr. Churchill, writing on Nov. 18 last, said:—"After a vast amount of delay that will appear unnecessary to those who are not acquainted with the country, I have succeeded in sending off to Dr. Livingstone a reinforcement of seven men, who have engaged to place themselves at the disposal of the doctor as porters, boatmen, &c., and a quantity of beads, clothes, and provisions for his use. I am in hopes that these will reach Ujiji in the month of February; but nothing certain can be said about it. News was received about a month ago of the arrival at Unyamwebe, in June last, of men and supplies sent up in October, 1869, by Dr. Kirk. Seven of the men had died of cholera, and the remainder, having consumed the provisions forwarded for them, had, with the advice of the Governor of Unyamwebe, drawn upon the supplies of which they were the bearers for their subsistence. The latest accounts from the interior state that Dr. Livingstone, after visiting a place called Manine, had not returned to Ujiji." Sir Henry Rawlinson said he was of opinion that if Dr. Livingstone was enabled to reach Zanzibar in February he would be in England before the end of the present Session; and he hoped they would all have the opportunity of welcoming him in that hall before the end of June.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—At the Brill Petty Sessions, Buckinghamshire, last Saturday, before the Duke of Buckingham and other magistrates, Emanuel Hall, of Long Crendon, farmer, was charged, on the complaint of Mr. H. P. Andrews, chief constable of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, with cruelly ill-treating, abusing, and torturing eighty-eight sheep, three horses, and four pigs, at Long Crendon and Shabbington. Mr. Andrews conducted the prosecution. William Sinclair, one of the officers of the society, stated that he went to the defendant's farm at Long Crendon on the 1st inst., and found there in a meadow, about a quarter of a mile from the homestead, fifty-four sheep in a wretched and debilitated state. The ground was covered with snow, and there were no signs of food about. The animals were nothing but skin and bone and witness could lift any one of them with one hand. He had a conversation with the defendant, who told him that four of the sheep had died—he supposed, he said, because they had not had enough to eat. Witness next visited defendant's farm at Shabbington, where he found thirty-four sheep in the same state as those at Long Crendon. On the former farm he saw two ricks of clover, two of barley, ten of wheat, and one of beans. Mr. A. Cherry, veterinary surgeon, of Brixton, had also visited both farms, and described the sheep as in a state of starvation. They were half bred Downes. A large number of them could hardly stagger. He lifted several of them one by one with one hand, and could have lifted three. When he took them up it was like holding an empty bladder. They ought to have weighed, as fair store stock, from 50 lb. to 70 lb. each; but those he lifted did not, in his opinion, weigh 30 lb. each. Witness could not discover any disease about the sheep, and their state, he considered, was owing to insufficiency of food. At Shabbington witness saw two horses drawing a cart which were in a very weak condition, as if they had had no food for two meals. Defendant was convicted for cruelty to fifty-nine sheep, which were described by the witnesses as worse than the others, and was fined 2*s*. for each, or £5 18*s*. in all, and ordered to pay the costs in each case, £2 7*s*. 6*d*., making the total penalty £10 13*s*. Mr. Andrews said the moiety of the fine which was payable to the informant would be given in aid of the Bucks Infirmary.

HOW THE PRUSSIANS TEACH THE WICKEDNESS OF WAR.—The Prussians seem to be carrying on the war upon the same principles of international law which formed, many thousand years ago, the rule of conquest among the Israelites. They are spoiling the Egyptians with a vengeance. Even in this town, under the very eyes of the King, there is one street—the Boulevard de la Reine—in which almost every house is absolutely gutted. The Prussian army may have many excellent qualities, but chivalry is not among them. War with them is a business. When a nation is conquered, there is to be no sentimental pity for it, but as much is to be made out of it as possible. Like the elephants, which can crush a tree or pick up a needle, they conquer a province and they pick a pocket. As soon as a Prussian is quartered in a room he sends for a box and some straw; then carefully and methodically packs up the clock on the mantelpiece and all the stray ornaments which he can lay his hands on; and then, with a tear glistening in his eye for his absent family, directs them either to his mother, or his wife, or his lady-love. In vain the proprietor protests. The philosophical warrior utters the most noble sentiments respecting the horrors of war; ponderously explains that the French do not sufficiently appreciate the blessings of peace; and that he is one of the humble instruments whose mission it is to make these blessings clear to them. Then he rings the bell, and, in a mild, gentle voice, orders his box of loot to be carried off by his military servant. Ben Butler and his New Englanders in New Orleans might have profitably taken lessons from these all-devouring locusts. Nothing escapes them. They have long rods, which they thrust into the ground to see whether anything of value has been buried in the gardens. Sometimes they confiscate a house, and then re-sell it to the proprietor. Sometimes they cart off the furniture. Pianos they are very fond of. When they see one they first sit down and play a few sentimental ditties. They go away, requisition a cart, and minstrel and instrument disappear together. They are a singular mixture of bravery and meanness. No one can deny that they possess the former quality; but they are courageous without one spark of heroism. After fighting all day for Fatherland they will rifle the corpses of their fallen foes of every article they can lay their hands on, and will return to their camp equally happy because they have won a great victory for Fatherland and stolen a watch from one of the enemies of Fatherland.—*Letter of the late "Besieged Resident," in the "Daily News."*



## OBITUARY.

**CANON MELVILL.**—Canon Melvill, who died on Thursday, February 9, at the Rectory House in Amen-court, in his seventy-third year, was born on Sept. 14, 1798, at Pendennis Castle, Cornwall, of which his father, Captain Philip Melvill, of the 73rd Regiment, had been appointed Lieutenant-Governor. He was educated at Christ's Hospital, where he rose to be a "Grecian," and proceeded in due course to St. John's College, Cambridge, which he entered as a "sizar" in October, 1817. In January, 1821, he took his Bachelor's degree, being Second Wrangler and First Smith's Prizeman. Immediately on taking his degree, Mr. Melvill was offered a Fellowship at Peterhouse, which he vacated ten years afterwards by his marriage, accepting at the same time the Incumbency of Camden Chapel, Camberwell.

**AUGUSTUS APPELGARTH.**—Augustus Applegarth died at Dartford, on Friday, Feb. 10, aged eighty-four. He was the inventor of the printer's composition-roller, and shortly afterwards of the composition-roller, and then, later, of the steam-printing press. For his invention of bank-notes that could not be forged he received from the Bank authorities £18,000. He also invented a machine for printing six colours at once. The patent for the steam-press was in the joint names of Cowper and Applegarth. The establishment for the experiments in the bank-note was at Croydon. In London he was engaged in the printing office by Clowes. He then printed all the Tract Society publications. The first book printed by steam was "Waterton's Wondercap." After leaving London he went to Crayford, and there established great silk and print works. After that he removed to Dartford, where he also established works.

## DOGS "INTERVIEWED."

A *New York Times* reporter gives an account of a recent visit of inquiry at a house in that city on the door of which is the inscription "Dogs Educated." The master of the house, "a very pleasant person," being summoned, politely offered the reporter all facilities; and, a door being opened, a number of dogs came into the room in good order, headed by a poodle. The reporter noticed that they evinced no cognisance of his presence, "not so much as by the wag of a tail." On his mentioning the circumstance, the professor replied, "They know no one but me. Now sit down, doggies." The animals sat down on their hind legs, all save one little spaniel, who could not keep his perpendicular, but toppled over every time he tried it, though he kept at it persistently. On a sign from his master, the poodle led the little fellow to a corner, when, finding a prop, he got along quite comfortably. The master remarked that no dog is so good as a poodle, and went on to say, "You would be surprised to know what a difference it makes when I train a puppy from an intellectual stock. That poodle's grandfather ran one hundred nights hand-running in 'The Orphan's Friend; or, Innocence Avenged' in the Old Country, and his grandson learns 'most anything at one showing.' Fond of him? Of course I am. I have seen tight times, but I would just as soon think of selling a child of mine as of parting with him. That dog would steal for me if I told him to." "Are you kept pretty busy?" "Pretty much so, though alone as a business it would not keep me. At nights I am a scene-shifter. Americans has to be educated up to my art. There is getting to be a private taste for it. Christmas week I sold four dogs at a good price. They were all good romping dogs. It takes a great deal of patience to instruct a dog thoroughly." "What is the price of a regular first-class performer, such as would draw at a circus?" "You can't put any fixed price on a star dog. I have been offered 800 dols. for Billy here by a professional as was going to the Brazils. A good dog, one that could play in the 'Montmartre' piece, and had good size and looked the part, I see, was sold in Manchester this last summer for £200. Three years ago Bill's half-brother was sold by me for 450 dols. He went to California. The last I heard of the party was that he had retired from the business and was running for the Legislature. I hire out dogs sometimes. I have got two travelling now with a minstrel troupe. I get 25 dols. a month for the two, besides a guarantee of 400 dols. in case they are not returned." "Don't they sometimes throw up their engagements and come back to you?" "So they do, and it's a very trying part of the business, and expensive telegraphing over the country about dogs. Of course, I have to whip them, and keep them till called for. There was one dog I owned once that broke loose twenty times; I couldn't break him of it. At last he would run up the steps, look over the threshold at me, or keep the other side of the street, just so as to have a sight at me, and then, kind of satisfied, would clear out again. That little retriever is just worthless when away from me, and she is a very intelligent dog. 'Dolly, my slippers, pipe, tobacco, and a match.' These orders were given very quickly, and the dog scampered around the room, and brought what was wanted, nothing after the other. 'Talking about dogs, I can train a dog to be a regular fire extinguisher. They scent fire and smoke in a moment. I had a big dog once who could put out any ordinary sized fire in a moment; he would roll over and over in it, even though it burnt him, until he put it out.' Some further conversation followed, and the professor said, "Only one thing, Sir, if Mr. don't think it a liberty, I shall presume to remark, which it is in regard to dogs, do what you may, good or bad treatment, they will never perform their tricks and carry a good tail. Now, to make you understand, do you see that yellow spotted dog? That dog knows we are talking about him, and he's pondering on us. Dogs does a deal of pondering. That dog's an inventive dog, Sir, and is capable of striking off for himself a perfectly original line of characters; only, Sir, when up to the beauties of his part—blessed, I may say, regularly inspired—he will drop his tail. Some dogs drops their tails more than others; some carries them right between their legs, which takes ever so much away from the traction of the piece. May be, Sir, you don't know much about plays where the dog is the actor. The female lady character says, 'Oh, my dog! my faithful dog! how joyously he bounds this way! We are saved, we are saved! He comes, he comes!' Now, to see a dog come in with his tail down, like a whipped cut, takes all

the life out of the piece. Dog human nature, notwithstanding any of the arts of man, will show itself there. Once I got acquainted with an Italian. He knew most as much as any man I ever saw on dogs. He had a big spaniel dog as was a most natural dog. I seed that dog perform a dozen times, and that dog had no drop in his tail, tho' his play was cowed like, and not free. Of course, his master wouldn't let me handle him. But I paid a friend of mine to have that dog sent me once, just for ten minutes, and I found it out. That dog was nicked, Sir; the muscles at the joint of his tail had been clean cut, so that he couldn't drop it or wag it, if he tried. That ain't true art; and I'm above it. It's the ambition of my life, however, to succeed on that one point. I suppose if I had a very young puppy, and trained him up alone apart from any other dog, and we neither of us ever lost our tempers, we might succeed. In the mean time, as you see, I satisfies my craving for perfection with short-tailed dogs. Nature and her defects ain't as perceptible in a bob-tailed dog." "Will you allow us to thank you, for you are really a conscientious artist? It is difficult to meet such." "Thank you, Sir," was the reply. "The living I pick up is one thing, and the satisfaction I derives from my calling is another. It ain't often I am appreciated."

**A NEW JERSEY FISH STORY.**—The last fish story comes from New Jersey. Late, in the interior of that State, a mild-looking countryman entered a railway car, bearing a bundle tied up in a handkerchief, which he placed under the seat at the end of the car. After travelling along for about half an hour, a lady sitting in front of the countryman was observed to move uneasily in her seat, and to cast savage glances at a seemingly respectable man sitting by her side. In a few minutes afterwards another lady, still further to the front, "became uneasy," and at last, rising in her seat, requested some gentlemen in the car would protect her from an elderly-looking gentleman by her side, and whom she stated had insulted her. A dozen persons offered their assistance, and before the accused could speak in his own defence his hat was jammed over his eyes and he was dragged to the rear of the car. While there, and carrying on with the avengers a war of words as to what the indignity meant, still another lady rose, also seated further up the car, and accused a gentleman sitting behind her with improper conduct. A rush was made for the insulted number two, but that gentleman vigorously defended himself with a large walking stick he happened to have (which, by-the-by, was one cause of the last troubles, his accuser stating that he had indecorously been rapping her ankles under the seat with the same), and, while the struggle to get at him was still in progress, somebody in the front of the car shouted "There's a snake on the floor!" A scene then ensued. The ladies in the car clambered up on to the seats, and many got on the arms and backs of the same. One elderly maiden managed to stand on the backs of two seats in the best circus manner possible under the circumstances, while a young mother threw her baby into a parcel-rack, and then hung convulsively to a ventilator. The confusion awoke the countryman, who, on being told of the snake, first felt in his bundle, and then exclaimed, "I'm blamed if that old eel hain't got loose!" started for the front, and soon returned grasping firmly an immense eel, which he had first caught while out fishing, but which, when brought into the car, had managed to get out of the bundle, and had wended its way to the front, lovingly caressing the different varieties of ladies' garters which he encountered on the way. Apologies given and received straightened everything in that car but the hat that was jammed down, and, the countryman leaving at the next station, no blood was drawn.—*New York Times*.

**PILLAR-POST ROBBERIES.**—It is stated that during the last month or six weeks between £500 and £600 has been stolen from pillar letter-boxes in various parts of the metropolis. On Saturday the police laid a scheme for apprehending some of the thieves which proved successful. Mr. Chesshyre, manager of the Hertford branch of the London and County Bank, drew a cheque to the amount of £7 6s. 3d. in the name of John Gardiner, and made payable at Hertford to Frank Summers. This cheque was placed in the hands of a detective named Hancock, by whom it was posted at a pillar letter-box at Kennington. Believing that the cheque would be presented at the Hertford Bank last Saturday, Hancock, with two constables, went down to Hertford and watched the arrival of the trains by the Great Eastern and Great Northern Railways. The train arriving at the Hertford station on the former line at about twelve o'clock brought two of the suspected persons, who immediately went to the London and County Bank, where one of them cashed the cheque which had been prepared by Mr. Chesshyre, and posted by Hancock. Immediately the presenter had indorsed it, a signal was given by the bank clerk, and the thief was quickly in the hands of Hancock, his confederate being apprehended by the other constables outside. The man who presented the cheque gives the name of John Hall, aged twenty-two, but is better known by the name of "Coley." The other man, Benjamin Poulton, is known as "Ben the Flat," and is about thirty-five years of age. Hall, on being taken to the police station, asked to be permitted to leave his cell to write a letter to his friends. This he was allowed to do, and, after he had written his letter, he was put back into the cell; but the constables forgot to either bolt or lock the door, and Hall, observing this omission, waited until there was no one in the police station except himself and his comrade, opened his cell door, and walked off unobserved. His escape was not discovered until about half an hour afterwards, and he has not since been heard of.

**EXTRAORDINARY BURGLARY AND ROBBERY.**—An extraordinary chloroform robbery took place at Stamford-hill one evening last week. Shortly after five o'clock Mrs. Newell, the wife of an accountant in the City, who lives at 5, Sydney-place, Stamford-hill, on going up stairs to her bed-room, was seized on the landing by a man and a youth, forced into a bed-room, and a cloth saturated with chloroform applied to her nose

and mouth until she became insensible. The cries she uttered during the struggle had, however, alarmed two female friends whom she had left down stairs, and the servants and two men in the employ of a neighbouring builder were called in. The bed room door, however, was found to be locked on the inside, and the men tried to burst it open, but said they could not. They then procured a ladder and placed it against the window, but were afraid to enter. At length Mr. Newell arrived home from the City, immediately mounted the ladder, and entered the room by the window, when he found his wife lying insensible on the floor. It was then discovered that the thieves had broken open one of the drawers, stolen a lady's gold chain, three £5 Bank-of-England notes, and £35 in gold, and had then escaped. It is believed that they made their entrance through the window from the roof, and escaped the same way. It was some time before Mrs. Newell recovered.

**CONVOCATION.**—In the Upper House of Convocation, on Tuesday, the Bishop of Winchester called attention to the fact that a Unitarian had been invited to take part in the revision of the Scriptures. He moved a resolution declaring it to be the judgment of the House that the gentleman in question should cease to act on the Company. A long debate ensued, and it was ultimately adjourned. The same subject formed the topic of discussion in the Lower House. Convocation sat again on Wednesday. In the Upper House the resolution on the subject of an Unitarian (Mr. Vance Smith) being on the Revision of the Scriptures Committee was amended, and, after further debate, was ultimately passed, on a division, by 10 to 4. The minority consisted of the Bishops of St. David's, Oxford, Lichfield, and Bath and Wells. In the Lower House it was agreed to make a formal protest against the Council of the Vatican being considered oecumenical, and against the dogma of Papal infallibility. Several important schedules of gravamina were presented.

**THE IRONY OF HISTORY.**—A private letter from Paris brings to our notice a curious case of what is called the Irony of History. The Great Exhibition of 1851 was supposed to be the inauguration of a period of perpetual peace. A large collection of French wheats was sent to it by order of the National Assembly. After the Exhibition these samples were stored for the benefit of the curious in the galleries of the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers. The directors of the museum and their families, and the sick and wounded (for whom beds had been prepared in the building) have lived through the latter portion of the siege upon good white bread made out of the samples above mentioned.

**A WEARY POSTMAN.**—A postman belonging to the south-western district, Buckingham-gate, was charged before Mr. Woolrych, at Westminster Police Court, on Wednesday, with being drunk during his employment as a letter-carrier. It appeared from the evidence of a police-constable that the defendant was sorting his letters under a lamp-post, and a crowd of disorderly persons assembled round him; the constable interfered, and the defendant went on his business, but his unsteady gait and other appearances indicating drunkenness compelled the officer to take him

into custody; he had several letters in his hand, but they were principally valentines. For the defence it was pleaded that the defendant, although only four years and a half in the service of the Post Office, was a steady, honest, and industrious servant, against whom no complaint had ever been made; and should he be convicted of the offence charged, dismissal from the service would certainly follow. The defendant had been on duty since four o'clock in the morning without intermission or opportunity of taking a meal, as the valentine delivery was very heavy, and the reserve men had even been called upon to perform the duties of letter-carriers. He had been without food all day, and a lady had given him half a tumbler of sherry, which overcame him. Mr. Woolrych, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, did not feel justified in convicting, and discharged the defendant.

**THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.**—The principal business of the London School Board on Wednesday was the consideration of Professor Huxley's proposal for a committee to consider the scheme of education to be adopted in the public elementary schools. He held that no educational system in this country would be worthy the name of national unless it created a great educational ladder, the bottom of which should be in the gutter and the top in the Universities. The first thing necessary to secure was a pleasant way of teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, and this could be done in the infant schools. He had a strong conviction that both drawing and music should be taught in an elementary form, and that technical instruction should be furnished to those who required it. The first elements of physical science should also form a part of the instruction. Geography and history, religion and morality, should likewise be included. The committee was granted.

## THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 10.

**BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.**—H. COWGILL, Burnley. **BANKRUPT.**—R. BODDINGTON and J. F. EMDEAN, Watney-street, Commercial-road East, ironmongers.—W. BONE, Craven-street, Strand.—K. BURG, Woodstock-street, Oxford-street, printer.—E. H. MORREY, Crutch-end.—R. TAYLOR and J. S. TRIPPE, Lombard-street, bankers.—H. W. THURSTON, Swinton-street, Gray's-inn-road, attorney's clerk.—J. CROPPER, Sheffield, plumber.—R. PERENS, New Cornway, grocer.—M. GRIFFITHS, Portcawl, grocer.—R. LAIT and J. HORSER, Louth, coachbuilders.—A. LEVY, Gosport, jeweller.—J. H. M'KEAN, Liverpool, wine merchant.—T. PALMER, Reading, butcher.—J. PHILLIPS, Roca, grocer.—G. STERLAND and E. LONG, Leeds, warehousemen.—Rev. T. A. VOULES, Ashill.—G. CHEDD, Bedford, publican.

**SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.**—W. M. YOUNG, Paisley, manufacturer.—GRANT BROTHERS, Greenock, boot manufacturers.—T. DUN, Edinburgh.—A. M'FARLANE, Glasgow, spirit-dealer.—R. ANDERSON, Edinburgh, painter.—G. WATT, Peterhead, fish curer.—M. NICHOLSON, Lonsdale, farmer.—W. ROSE, Drumore, cattle-dealer.—S. GRAHAM, Glasgow, boiler-maker.

TUESDAY, FEB. 14.

**BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.**—J. COWPER, North Warnborough, Hants. **BANKRUPT.**—R. E. ABERY, London-lane, Hackney, builder.—W. WESTLAKE, Strand, tailor.—Rev. E. F. BROWN, Wrexham, Roman-Catholic priest.—H. HARDISTY, Huddersfield, leather-dresser.—W. RUGGLES, Yarmouth, tailor.—J. MORRIS, Gainsborough, grocer.—H. PARKER, Huddersfield, builder.—W. B. SMITH, Huddersfield. **SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.**—J. BAXTER, Chryston, spirit-merchant.—W. G. MURRAY, Edinburgh.—W. CLARK, Easter Golford, farmer.—W. and D. MUIR, Glasgow, contractors.—S. M'EWAN, Port Glasgow, spirit-dealer.—J. YULE, Maryburgh, near Dingwall, merchant.

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**HOME CHARITIES.**—Owing to the noble  
and benevolent exertions made by the British public  
during the last few months to aid the sick and wounded in the  
war now raging on the Continent, to relieve the French  
peasants, and the relatives and friends of those lost in H.M.S.  
the Japanese, the funds of the following Home Charities have  
suffered very materially, viz.:—  
The Boys' Refuge, at 8, Great Queen-street, Holborn.  
Bisley Farm School, Surrey.  
Chichester Training Ship.  
Girls' Refuge, 18, Broad-street, Bloomsbury.  
Home for Little Girls and Girls Refuge, Ealing.  
In these institutions between 500 and 600 boys and girls are  
educated, fed, clothed, and trained to earn their own living.  
Besides the above work, upwards of 500 Ragged school children  
are supplied with dinner once a week.  
An URGENT APPEAL is therefore made for help to purchase  
food and clothing for these poor children. Contributions will  
be thankfully received by the London and Westminster Bank,  
24, High Holborn, and at Louthbury, City; and by  
WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Secretary.  
Boys' Refuge, 8, Great Queen-street, Holborn, W.C.

**NEWPORT-MARKET REFUGE and**  
**INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, SOHO, W.C.**—Sixty boys,  
homeless or orphan, are fed, lodged, clothed, and taught.  
Thirty-eight have left it during the past year, permanently pro-  
vided with situations. Seventy-six destitute men and women  
receive nightly shelter in the Refuge from the inclemency of  
the weather. FUNDS are most urgently REQUIRED to carry  
on the Institution; unless they are provided, the Committee  
will be compelled to limit their work of Charity. W. Bayne  
Ranken, Esq., at the Refuge; and Owen H. Morehead, Esq., at  
the War Office, S.W., the Hon. Secs. will thankfully receive  
subscriptions and donations.

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the teeth a pearl-like whiteness, protects the enamel from decay,  
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TOILET AND RUMBLEY FLOWERS, recommended for their  
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